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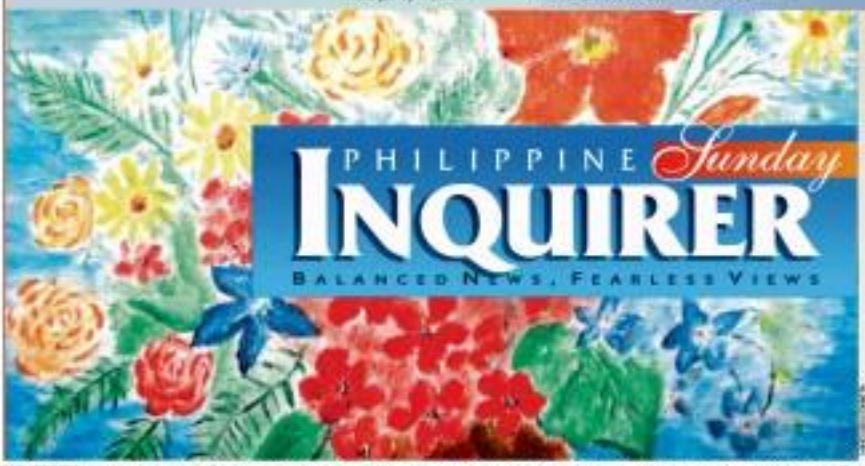
PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



• Annabelle Rama: Mother of all battles • Life with a gay mother, single mom and the 'perfect' mama SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE/ • 5 lessons I learned from my mom, Caridad Sanchez • The making over of Mommy Dionesia • Ricky Reyes opens his private paradise in Calatagan, Batangas to one and all LIFESTYLE/ • Corporate presidents/CEOs: Mothers know best SUNDAY BIZ/ • Playboy won't buy P4-M Hermes bag for Gorgeous Celebrity ENTERTAINMENT/ • Afghan leader demands end to US air strikes NEWS

FLOWERS FOR MAMA in pastel and other floral portraits by Michelle Arroyo, 15, are held close to her mother's heart. Michelle painted from her sickbed to hold her first exhibit. But then Michelle's leukemia worsened even as her father was captured for 3 months by Somali pirates last year. It's God's own time, he was home when his daughter passed on last Sunday, never to show her expressions of living with the exuberance of flowers in vivid colors. (Story below)

Loren Legarda: Single mom has no FG

By Michael Lim Ubac

A "DAT" PRESIDENT?

To Sen. Loren Legarda, a single mother with two teenage sons, that could be the most persuasive argument for putting her in Malacañang.

"I am a mother to the country. I am married to the country. I am committed to the country" said Legarda, one of the most assiduous of the half-dozen or so senators aspiring to run for the highest office in 2010, at a recent dinner with Iloconos editors and reporters.

"I have no First Gentleman (FG), I have no husband, no boyfriend (though many boy friends)," said the senator whose marriage to homicide convict and former Batangas governor Tony Leviste was, according to her, annulled by the family court last year.

Legarda, 49, has yet to formally announce her candidacy but the dinners—which she host-

LOREN AS

LEGARDA Having no FG may be the strongest and most persuasive argument to catapult her to Malacañang.

New party for Noli

MVP for VP? It's a long shot, says analyst

SOMEWHERE Vice President Noli de Castro reportedly will be out of there once the merger of Lakas-Kampi is in place and he will go "elsewhere."

By Philip C. Tubeza

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO WILL NOT BE WITHOUT a party for long and may even get management whiz Manuel V. Pangilinan as his backer, a political analyst said yesterday.

Speaking at a forum held at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City, Tony Garnaeiran, executive director of the PIDAS (Political Economic Applied Research) Foundation, said "a new party" or "movement" might be launched next month that would offer De Castro his political vehicle to secure the presidency.

"A new party/movement is in the cards and Noli will be offered to head it with possible support from Manny Pangilinan. Armed with new allies, Noli is now in the running," Garnaeiran said at the forum titled "The 2010 Elections: Assessments and Analysis. A Year Ahead."

He said that with the merger of the ruling Lakas and Kampi parties, "De Castro will go elsewhere," and that Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Interi-

NEW PARTY A2

Lozada's new cause: Toilets for jailbirds

By Pennie Azarcon de la Cruz

IT SEEMS THAT EVERYTHING HODELlo "Boy" Lozada Jr. touches turns into a cause.

The whistle-blower spent just 32 hours behind bars at the Manila Police District last week and already, the jail inmates have found in him an ally.

They got us to donate two toilet bowls for the inmates' use and inspired us to start our own prison apostolate," Sr. Mary John Mananzan, cochair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, told the Inquirer on Friday. "We'll start off by assigning a lawyer to the prisoner to take care of the inmates' legal needs."

Another project, according to Mananzan, is to provide "at least one substantial meal a day" to the 20 inmates at the precinct who, Lozada had observed in his brief stay with them, made do with the leftovers of his first two meals.

As in most jails, the inmates pitch in with money from visiting relatives to raise a daily budget of P580 to feed all of them.

Recounted Mananzan: "For his third meal, breakfast, Jun refused to take anything unless the other inmates had the same food. We ended up feeding them all. I'm going to ask the different religious orders to take turns to continue this food sharing."

The nun said she was conscripted as well to make urgent calls to the inmates' relatives on their behalf. (No mobile phones are allowed inside the jail cell.)

The hard-luck stories he heard during his brief stay in jail also prompted Lozada to donate to his fellow inmates the proceeds of the "Pinoy-pino kay Lozada" campaign intended to raise his P6,000 bail.

"There should be enough to bail out some of them," he said of the P50,000 raised so far.

Lozada was arrested on April 29 on perjury charges filed by Michael De-Jesus, a former chief of staff of Presi-

LOZADA'S A6

Nanay Dionesia: She suffers with her son, blow by blow

NANAY DIONESIA AS FABLICAL FIGURE At the core of the joke is a human core: How a mother could suffer for her child, blow by blow. KATCHO HINGLASIN CORDOVA

By Constantino C. Tejero

DIONESIA DAPIDRAN PACQUIAO, AFfectionately called "Nanay Dionesia" by Filipinos as if she were the mother of the nation, has a strong tolerance to pain. But there is one pain she herself admits she could hardly endure.

World boxing champ Manny Pacquiao's 80-year-old mother was said to have fainted away ahead of his ferocious Ricky Hatton by the second round last week in Las Vegas. And this without ever having seen him fight live in the ring or on TV, as she was, like before, in the company of her prayer brigade saying the Holy Rosary.

It could be a joke, but it reveals a lot. A salient point about how farcical a character she has become to many, but at the core of the joke is a more human one: How a mother could suffer for her child. In every fight, she is actually suffering with her son, blow by blow, as she feels his pain almost physical-

NANAY A3

Hatton speaks funny on YouTube

By Ephraim Aguilar
in Southern Luzon
and Alvin Pepa
in Manila

LEGAZPI CITY—NOW SHOWING on YouTube: Ricky Hatton speaks Bicolo!

A month before Hatton was knocked out in Las Vegas by Manny Pacquiao, the British boxer had given an interview saying he

HATTON A6

WORLD'S GREATEST FEMALE GOLFER IN TOWN

Annika Sorenstam, 39, talks to an exclusive circle of guests at the Manila Golf Club on Saturday, saying she hopes to bring her vision and passion for the game into designing three of Asia's finest golf courses in a 457-ha sprawl for the Subic Bay Freeport. Retiring last year from competitive play, the Swedish superstar is a World Golf Hall of Famer (2003) having strung up 10 victories in the ladies' majors, part of an astonishing collection of 89 career wins, 72 of them in the LPGA.

In death, girl gives mom her best Mother's Day gift

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FLOWERS AND KISSES.

That's what Michelle would give her mom, Criny Arroyo, 44, on Mother's Day.

Not this year. Criny's youngest daughter lost her three-year battle with leukemia. She was only 15.

At noon last Sunday, the respirator was finally removed. Michelle and Criny held hands. A few minutes later, Michelle let go of her mother's hand.

Criny said: "She really made sure her father was home safe before she left us."

Even from her hospital bed, Michelle sought to save her father Roger, 46, who was captured by Somali pirates last year by writing a letter of appeal to its captors. The pirates reportedly hemmed Roger when they received her appeal.

Despite her illness, Michelle remained strong. Criny recalled. She taught taekwondo to children in their neighborhood in Antipolo City even after her painful chemotherapy sessions.

In her hospital bed, Michelle painted colorful flowers, and was preparing for her first one-man show to raise funds for her expensive treatment and medication for leukemia.

The big ask ran a story on Michelle's appeal. It also caught the attention of Kenya-based volunteer group Boystown International that of-

IN DEATH A6

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Fair and Windless until afternoon; mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Forecast for Luzon and Visayas: Mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly over afternoon or evening

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Naga	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Dumaguete	Mostly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
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Automation still a go for Comelec

Spokesperson says bidders' appeals to be heard this week, no to negotiated deal

By Philip C. Tubeza and Lolita B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IS NOT YET giving up on full automation for the 2010 polls and it is reviewing the motions for reconsideration filed by the seven bidders it earlier disqualified, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said yesterday.

Speaking at a forum at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati, Jimenez said the Comelec special bids and awards committee (SBAC) had received the appeals of four of the seven bidders and would decide on their motions early next week.

"It's not over yet. Hindi pa tapos ang boxing (The bout is not over). The is gonna go more than two rounds because everyone who was disqualified will file motions for reconsideration," Jimenez said.

"There's no failure yet because we have an appeals process. As of (Friday), we have four companies that filed their (appeals). We were expecting two (yesterday) afternoon and another one (today)," he added.

No ISO certification

Jimenez said most of the firms were disqualified for failing to submit an "ISO certification" from the International Organization for Standardization. He said the disqualified bidders submitted the ISO certifications of the parent companies of their project partners.

Another bidder failed to show it had previous experience executing projects worth at least half the P11.2-billion price tag of the automation project, a requirement for bidders, while another bidder did not submit a favorable and final clearance. Commission representatives

Bad reputation

Jimenez said it was "unlikely" the Comelec would resort to a "negotiated scenario" for the automation project because the poll body might still be able to award the contract before the end of the month.

"You can make it an unsolicited as possible but a negotiated scenario still always have a bad reputation," he said.

Jimenez said that a negotiated contract could happen only after two failed biddings and the Comelec would not have time to conduct another bidding.

He said that if the bidding process fails, the Comelec would either "scale down" the automation project by moving from a "precinct-based to a municipality-center-based" system, or go for "partial automation."

Another option is to return to manual polls, which Jimenez said was not really an answer either because the law requires the Comelec to automate the vote.

In case it would have to revert to manual voting, Jimenez said the public could be assured that the Comelec would do all it could to make sure the polls are transparent and clean.

Partial automation

As this developed, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales pushed for the Monsod-style partial automation for next year's elections just to avoid the "disastrous" manual system.

He said the Comelec should take a second look at the "open election system" (OES) that is simpler, but more "fraud-proof."

"The system retains manual voting and counting at the precinct level but automates the canvassing. In short, it's halfway between manual and automated elections, he said in a statement.

Disastrous

"Reverting to manual elections next year is now a distinct possibility that we cannot allow to happen. It would be disastrous for the country to have a 2010 presidential election with questionable credibility," Gonzales said.

Former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod and some civil society groups had proposed the OES in March, warning that a fully automated election could be disastrous given the insufficient time to prepare and test the machines to be used.

Misunderstanding

However, balked at suggestions the Comelec adopt partial automation.

"We reiterate that as much as possible, Mahirapang would not want to interfere with the work of the Comelec. We respect the Comelec as an independent constitutional body," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said over government-run dzRB radio.

It was up to the Comelec to implement the full automation law, he said.

Better alternative

Gonzales said the OES would be a better alternative than manual voting because it's designed to keep the voting and the precinct-level counting process, and the canvassing free from "vote-shorting and padding."

"We are running out of time for the preparations for full automation, but we still have adequate time for OES," he said.

With a report from TJ Burgonio

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Farmers allowed to stay outside House

THE HUNGRY OUSTER CAMPERS outside the gates of the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City have been allowed to remain where they are until Congress adjourns on June 6—which also means that newly unsalted Arroyosels party-list Rep. Joel Maglunsod would get to keep his office in the camp.

Maglunsod temporarily condoned hunting outside the gates of the House of Representatives compound because he has yet to be given an office inside it, like the other newly sworn party-list representatives proclaimed recently by the Commission on Elections.

Keeping the campsite also means the farmers can continue to push for the passage of the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill and to register their opposition to Charter change.

Southpaw Rep. Rafael Mariano yesterday said the farmers' groups had come to an agreement with House Secretary General Marilyn Barua-Yap whereby the groups could remain outside the gates as long as they modified their campsite.

The groups met with Yap and the Legislative Security Bureau on Friday.

Mariano said the farmers would replace their tents' bamboo frames and make them less permanent. But they would be allowed to keep their structures, he added.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said Yap had also suggested that they transfer to a vacant lot near a police station along Batasan Road.

But KMP spokesperson Antonio Flores said in a statement the suggestion was rejected because the farmers wanted to remain outside the House gates. —Lolita B. Salaverria

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NBI to summon DPWH execs

THE NATIONAL BUREAU of Investigation is set to summon Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials and private contractors as part of its probe of purported collusion and bid rigging in government projects funded by the World Bank.

Lawyer Rizaldo Shiel Ambamon-ante, Division chief and concerns spokesperson, said the bureau would begin issuing subpoenas on Monday to several members of the DPWH bids and awards committee and the contractors.

He said the NBI would build up the evidence needed before going after the personalities summoned in the World Bank report, one of whom was Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Jose Ebdane Jr.

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Vagni family receives sign of life–another phone call

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EUGENIO VAGNI, THE ITALIAN INTERnational Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) worker still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Jolo, is alive, the aid organization said yesterday.

Vagni, according to ICRC Asia Pacific chief Main Aeschlimann, called his family in Italy on Friday, after more than a week of silence on his end.

"He was able to call his family on the morning of May 8. However, the entire situation is difficult for his loved ones, who of course remain very worried about him. We are keenly aware of the distress they are feeling," Aeschlimann said in a statement.

In need of medical attention

Vagni, 62, was seized on Jan. 15 by armed gunmen in Jolo, along with two other ICRC workers.

The two others—Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba and Swiss Andreas Notter—were freed two weeks apart in April.

The last time Vagni was able to talk to his family was two weeks ago. He is suffering from a hernia and is in need of medical attention, the ICRC said. The group reiterated its appeal to Vagni's captors to release him immediately.

Antonella Iyrak of the ICRC office in Manila said she did not know details of the conversation.

"What's important for us is that it's been 113 days and he's still held hostage and we hope that he will be released as soon as possible," she said.

No ransom demand

Aeschlimann stressed the ICRC had not received any ransom demand from Vagni's captors.

But he said the group's policy is not to pay ransom for kidnapped staff. It also would not pay for information on Vagni, he said.

Doing so would jeopardize the work of other ICRC workers, especially those posted in conflict areas, he said.

"There are no exceptions under this policy," he said.

"There are a lot of efforts which aim at bringing about the safe and unconditional release of Eugenio," Iyrak said. "Her safety is of paramount concern." Antonio L. Abano, AP

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'Emong' toll: 33 dead, 30 hurt, P380M in damage

By Yolanda Sarsale, Gabriel Cardenas and Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon
and Tarra Quismundo and Alcuin Papa
in Manila

THE DEATH TOLL FROM TYPHOON "Emong," the second cyclone to hit the country in a week and the strongest so far this year, rose to 33 after seven more fatalities were reported in the provinces of Ilocos, Pangasinan and Baguio, reports gathered by the Inquirer showed.

Four more deaths were reported in Pangasinan province, which bore the brunt of the typhoon, raising the number of fatalities in the province to 20. At least 19 people, mostly fishermen of fish pens and cages, remained missing.

In Baguio, the death toll rose from nine to 12, with the three new fatalities reported in Laguna, Mexico and Malasiqui.

The Pangasinan provincial disaster coordinating council identified the latest fatalities as Willie Ivanosco and Lorena Lagasca of Habitat and Environment Consultancy and Ely Sabanes of Agno.

However, citing reports from the field, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) placed the death toll at 33 as of noon yesterday, including 12 victims of landslides in Baguio, and 12 who died by drowning, hear attack, and falling debris in Pangasinan, La Union, Nueva Vizcaya, Ilocos and Zambales.

Flooded and impassable

The NDCC said the number of injured rose to 38 as of noon, mostly hit by 61 cases involving falling trees in Pangasinan.

At least 22 were injured in Pangasinan while Pagasa reported eight persons were injured due to landslides.

The NDCC said Emong destroyed close to P380 million worth of crops, infrastructure and power lines.

Agricultural losses accounted for most of the damage, totaling P371 million worth of destroyed crops and agricultural fields.

The NDCC placed the damage to transmission lines at P4.4 million. As of yesterday, Ilocos and Cagayan still had power outages.

Damage to roads and bridges totaled P4.3 million as covered roads in Zambales, Baguio and Pampanga remained flooded and impassable.

In Pangasinan, Mario Manolo Moreno of Binil, compared Emong's strength to the fury of Manny Pacquiao in order to convince residents of Barangay Guzon in evacuate to safer ground as the typhoon unleashed its fury on Thursday.

Pangasinan's DPCC said initial damage to agriculture and fisheries was at P11.7 million. But Anda Mayor Hector Padilla said that in his town alone, fishery losses could reach P1 billion.

"All of our fish pens and cages were destroyed and swept away," Padilla said.

Sunspot not to scale

Bolinao Mayor Alfonso Celerio said almost all of the fish structures along the town's coastline were swept out to sea.

The PDCC also said it would take about a week before electricity is restored in areas in Pangasinan towns.

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines in Ilocos Manuel Ireneo said several electrical posts and structures from Aguilar to Bolinao towns and Infanta town either toppled or broken.

Meanwhile in Manila, NGCP corporate communications officer, said Aluminum City and the towns of Asingan, Binalonan, Urdaneta and Bolinao remain customers to experience power interruptions.

In the Cordillera, the Office of Civil Defense raised the number of typhoon-related deaths to 12 due to landslides in the vicinity of Pinsaegan and Bessang Pass in Kiangan, Ifugao, as well as other parts of the province.

OCD reports said crop losses in Ifugao, Kalinga, Benguet and Mt. Province reached P14 million.

Power has yet to be restored in Kiangan, Lamut, Lagawe, Banaue and Hungduan in Ifugao.

Expect more rain

Session Road, a major route leading to Baguio City, was opened to traffic after it was cleared of mud and rocks on Friday.

Damages to roads in the port of the Caraballos were estimated at P8.3 million, the DPWH said.

Despite the exit of Emong, Metro Manila and the rest of the country can expect rains through the weekend, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

In its weather bulletin issued at 5 p.m. yesterday, Pagasa said Emong was 695 km east of northern Luzon packing maximum winds of 95 km per hour. It is moving at 10 kph and is expected to leave the country's area of responsibility by Sunday.

Pagasa said Metro Manila will experience cloudy skies with occasional rain showers and thunderstorms.

The Visayas and Mindanao will experience mainly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms due to an intertropical convergence zone.

The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon and evening.

Stock exchange board picks Hans Sicat to lead it

FORMER CITIBANKER HANS Sicat was yesterday became chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The 68-year-old Sicat received the unanimous vote of the PSE's new 15-member board to head the institution.

Sicat replaced former Supreme Court Justice Jose Vitug, who retired after four years at the helm of the bourse.

"I think the credentials of our new chair speak for themselves," PSE president Francis Lim said in a briefing after the meeting of the new board. "He has been exposed to global best practices."

Sicat said he was honored to be associated with the PSE, which he described as a "pretty historic group."

In addition to improving stock market performance, Sicat said he would like the PSE to play a bigger role in the economy. At present, less than 1 percent of 96 million Filipinos are actively trading in the stock market.

"Clearly, you want to be a world-class exchange, and with that comes a lot of work, requirements in global best practices," Sicat said.

He added that he was looking forward to working with the PSE management team.

Sicat was among three independent nominees elected to the board. The others were John Aycardo-Barnes and Vicente Paulino.

The six other nominee directors are Francis Lim, Antonio Chua, Ginnlito Tiangco, Edmundo David, Amor Bocaya and Wilfred Sze Kheng Pe.

Six stockbrokers were elected to the new board: Victor Keheng, Emilio Tanes, Alejandro Yu, David Chua, Ismael Cruz and Eddie Gobing. — Doris C. Dumlao

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Vagrancy to cease being a crime

FINALLY, VAGRANCY WILL SOON BE deleted from the law books.

The Senate has approved on third and final reading a bill that would strike out vagrancy from the list of petty offenses in the criminal code for being antiquate and a violation of citizen's rights.

"The law, in short, has more than achieved its purpose of hamstringing civilians by even selling a citizen's freedom of mobility or attack is enshrined in the Bill of Rights," Sen. Francis Escudero said yesterday.

"We, it's a catch-all crime. They use it against the poor if they don't know what to charge them with," said the senator, chair of the Senate justice committee, in a phone interview.

"No one should be arrested for vagrancy," he said.

A vagrant is defined as a person who loiters in public places with no apparent means of subsistence or purpose.

"Vagrants are victims of poverty and the lack of opportunities for employment and access to decent standards of living and quality of life," Escudero said, adding that lowering inflicted no harm to society.

Enacted in 1932 when the country was still under American colonial rule, "it was originally meant to keep workers inside factories," Escudero said.

It was also widely used during the martial law years and was even invoked in the aftermath of mchurrian coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

Police use it to curtail people's movements, particularly at night with or without a declared curfew, Escudero noted.

Senate Bill No. 1965 seeks to amend Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code, which penalizes vagrancy and prostitution. It removes the term vagrancy, which imposes a jail sentence of one day to 30 days, or a fine not exceeding P200. Prostitution, however, shall continue to be punishable.

"Vagrants are mostly victims of circumstance and the inequities in society. It is time to strike out this antiquate provision from our code of crimes," Escudero said.

SB 1965, anchored by Escudero together with Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Richard Gordon and Loren Legarda, has been endorsed by the Senate committees on justice and human rights and on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws.

Escudero, who chairs both committees, said that if enacted, it would also deregate court dockets and allow law enforcement officers to pay more attention to graver offenses, thereby improving the administration of justice in the country.

The bill, Escudero had said in his website, provides equal protection to women, children and men over the arbitrariness of an anyone-a-recklessly and conveniently use vagrancy in arbitrary arrests.

Michael Lim Ubac

Just exercising my right, says GSIS exec

AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) yesterday chided broadcast journalist Cheche Lazaro for making a press interview out of the administrative filed against her for allegedly violating the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

Dir. Valenzuela, the GSIS vice president for communications, who filed the case against Lazaro, stressed that she brought suit against the journalist-professor and veteran broadcaster to protect her rights as a private individual, and that the GSIS had nothing to do with the case.

Valenzuela said Lazaro was "grossly misinformed" in characterizing the charge against her as an example of the government trying to get back at media critics.

"There is no grand conspiracy. There are no devious schemes. Definitely, there is no concerted effort to stifle press freedom. I pursued my rights, taking the route of due process, without the need to engage in a publicity stunt," said Valenzuela in a statement.

Valenzuela brought charges against Lazaro and 19 other ABS-CBN television personnel that recording and airing to the "Probe" TV show a phone interview Lazaro conducted with Valenzuela in November, allegedly without the latter's knowledge and permission.

On Friday, Lazaro posted bail after Pasay City Judge Josephine Gee Cruz ordered her arrest on Thursday.

Valenzuela said she would have kept quiet about the case and let the event pass into course, but Lazaro had sought to elicit public sympathy by giving political color to a simple criminal charge.

She said her case against Lazaro revolved around the question: "Are members of media allowed to violate the individual rights of a person? Can media practitioners simply call you up, record your conversation, and broadcast it for the entire world to hear, all this without your knowledge, much less your permission?"

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BEST GIFT FROM BEYOND Incredibly consoling for Cleriby Arroyo is one that her daughter Michelle's wake is crowded with people far beyond her short life could have reached. Michelle's funeral was held on Saturday. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

In death, girl ...

From page A1

loved to relay Michelle's plea, through its funeral narratives, to the reporters.

Last February, Roger and his fellow crew members were released after more than three months of captivity.

Cristy said she lost a "sweet, loving and thoughtful" daughter who always slept in her arms.

"I am proud to be her mother," she said, but the last night of Michelle's wake on Friday, "I am thankful the Lord gave her to me."

Fighting for life

Cristy first discovered Michelle had leukemia in October 2008. Two types of cancer cells were poisoning her blood.

It broke the young girl's heart. She wanted to become a fashion model. Instead, she had to undergo chemotherapy and started losing her hair. It was more painful for Cristy, who kept asking, "Why did it have to be my daughter?"

While her two sisters excelled in academics, Michelle's heart was in sports. She started models in tank wombs and played volleyball.

Cristy knew she had to be strong for Michelle. Through her mother's guidance, Michelle fought for her life, finding a black ribbon to be given to underwoods homes to children in their village. She remained with the Church choir. She continued her hobby of cooking and just last year took an interest in art. She painted flowers with bright colors.

Michelle's courage earned the love of the nurses who took care of her at the Sentro'y Hospital in Manila. Using her camera phone, the tech widow of her painful bone marrow transplant procedures to show to her father and friends.

Father captured by pirates

Her condition worsened in November 2008. Around the same time, Cristy learned that her husband Roger was among the 28 Filipino seamen on board oil tanker Demeter Venus that had been seized by pirates off Somalia.

Cristy says besides herself with worry. She had to buy expensive medicines for Michelle. She had no one to look for her husband. She worried about her eldest daughter Rachelle, 19, who studied at a call center and would come home late. She also looked after her second daughter Chantelle, 18, who was still in school.

"I did not know what to do," Cristy said.

Feeling alone and desperate, the thought of ending her problems by jumping into the tracks of the Light Rail Transit (LRT). But when would happen to her children?

Faith kept her strong

She found strength in her faith.

"I prayed for healing," Cristy said. "I thanked God that despite everything I was going through, I was healthy."

While her body was getting weaker, Michelle's heart remained strong. Just as her father Roger was determined to come home for her, Michelle was also determined to stay alive until his safe return.

Last December, Michelle wrote a letter appealing to the pirates to set her father free. Cristy e-mailed her daughter's letter to the Cannot Wait Until Foundation, which had been helping the family finance Michelle's expensive medications. The e-mail delivered online until a reader forwarded it to the pirates two days later.

Prayer of surrender

They were still celebrating Roger's safe return in March when Cristy again noticed her daughter's scalp being irritated. Michelle was suffering from excruciating headaches—the cancer cells had reached her brain.

In the next three weeks, mother and daughter continued to pray. One day, Cristy opened her prayer book and saw "a prayer of surrender."

She left the room and cried. She told Jesus to take her instead.

Cristy went to the chapel. "I asked the Lord...if He wants to take my daughter back, please don't let her suffer anymore."

Letting go

Although Michelle could not talk because of the respirator she had here, she used her cell phone to send text messages to her family, her doctor and the nurses. She requested for the removal of her respirator.

The doctor said they would remove the respirator if she could sustain breathing on her own. Last Sunday, they took him off the respirator.

Although she had lived a short life, the smiles for Michelle was unusually crowded. It was attended by her friends and teachers, her choir mates and neighbors, even her nurses. They all told Cristy how deeply her daughter had touched their lives.

THE FATHER THE DAUGHTER HELPED SAVE Roger Arroyo, a seaman, held in captivity for three months by Somali pirates last year, is more fully home for his daughter. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Lozada's ...

From page A1

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Defense asked him to deny he was kidnapped by government agents when he arrived from Hong Kong in February 2008. Lozada had testified in a Senate inquiry into the alleged corruption in the scrapped $329-million National Broadband Network deal between the government and China's ZTE Corp.

According to Lozada, getting arrested was as eventuality he was prepared for. "But I had a lot of apprehension when I saw what [the police] did to [ABS-CBN broadcaster] Ted Failon. So I was sure that I would go peacefully on need-to-counter facts," he told the tribunal.

On the day of his arrest, he was "more concerned" with managing the feelings of his wife Vicky and their five children aged 16 to 7, Lozada said. "If there's one thing I regret about the whole affair, it's that I didn't prepare my family for it."

But Lozada's "fear of the unknown" turned out to be baseless.

Aside from the bruises with "nonexistent clue" have been there," he went incommunicado in jail were "those times when I had to go to the toilet," he said. "There was no toilet to speak of, just a stink hole."

This was particularly frustrating for him because he has always required the toilet as his "personal refuge from the maddening world."

"My epiphany would usually happen inside the toilet. That's where I get the answers to problems so I can commune with my God," he said.

Notwithstanding the stinks about how "someone criminals" were new minutes, Lozada said he had never been afraid of people.

"My world view about people is that despite inherently good, they seem to be good," he said. Only [Senate] Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and my tormentors, I know that in their heart, they wish they were good. They yearn to be good and to be acknowledged as good. There is a God inside so that wants to come out. And I always appeal to that God inside."

It was easy enough to do that in jail, Lozada said.

So is better to Manassas, writers during his first night behind bars, he said: "Christ is inside here. There is more repentance and genuine prayer here than outside. More sharing, more brotherhood and sisterhood ..."

Of his long chats with fellow inmates, Lozada recalled: "They asked me why I decided to come out and tell the truth despite the risks. I told them that I drove them to crime, financially, it was poverty."

'They're playing with lives'

Manassas called for a murder to jail or "Divine Providence," but the inmates described it as "a glimmer of hope," Lozada said.

"They said I landed in a cell with them so I can tell the world about the inmates in prison and the rot of our entire prison system. They talk of being shaken down by law enforcers, of public attorneys who tell them to admit to the crime and they'll just ask for a lighter sentence, and of waiting for months in jail after their case was dismissed simply because their papers have yet to be signed by the justice secretary."

Lozada said he was "humbled" by the trust inmates had shown to reveal his own woes.

"I hope my case serves as a rallies up call to government agencies to hear witness to correct problems no one knows here. Sometimes I feel like a toothpick that's been discarded after use," he said bravely. "It's an unfair ride for us to be treated with such high. We should demand a rectification of the system. They're playing with our lives!"

Good acting

Some columnists have described such hours of outrage and "total bullsh*t" as "good acting," but Lozada said he did not care.

"They can insert it to me, inside my deep inside wounds, and that's fine," he said. "I only act according to my internal conviction. If I can touch other people, that's enough for me."

And that should compensate for the apparent lack of public outrage over his arrest and the many twists that his expose of the $329-ZTE deal has taken, he said.

In the court decisions and the "Free Lozada" campaign, only about a hundred people showed up at the candlelight vigil on Wednesday outside the Medical Center Manila, where the whistleblower was confined last week.

So, it's not resignation, said Manassas. "I think people are just waiting for the 2010 elections. They're already gearing up for it. In months, changes will happen. Megapoll ns [There will be new officials elected]."

Solidarity

But it's the "spirit of solidarity," and not just the outrage, that one should look for, Lozada said. "But, he said, non-everywhere—and not just in the Philippines—in every system of conflict and will rank more shooting pictures with him, doctor writers professional fees, and former classmates rushed up for autographs and more picture-taking.

For example, a man from Mandaluyong in the candlelight vigil and left P500. Lozada recalled: "He said he could no longer afford to give us money, but he wanted to tell me to continue to raise my hand. Those thanks to crime, financially, it was poverty."

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Hatton speaks funny on YouTube

From page A1

world) finds the Filipino champ in Las Vegas materials.

Now isn't that ironic? Because in the actual fight on May 2, Pacquiao defeated Hatton in a glorious technical knockout in the second round.

Meanwhile, YouTube user Targeter-x101 dubbed over an original interview Hatton and Pacquiao did on separate occasions during a comedy sketch featuring a squeaky-voiced Hatton speaking Bisaya.

The original video was an interview of Hatton after his fight with Paulie Malignaggi late last year.

The YouTube clip (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWOOSeDcuQ) which was uploaded on March 29 has drawn over 54,000 hits and the meter is still running.

In the clip, the interviewer asks Hatton how many rounds does he think Pacquiao would last.

The first job boxer answers: "Baka isa rounds (Two rounds)."

The interviewer followed up with: "Di kaya sa makabili si Pacquiao? Ngayon ay hanggang anim ng mga dun kasi kanyang a ngayong ano ya ano ah ano ah ano ..."

Hatton gives this strange answer: "Di na siguro ako ng ano ako ah ano ah ano sa Singkit, hanang mas ano ay ano. Di ni mayo ay ngid-ngid (He cannot touch me. In our place in Bagujon, which still in the 'in' thing. We don't believe in smokers)."

Witches into boxing

He added, still dubbed in Bisaya: "Kuning ngo silingan nimo ay ano ngo mga makusok, wala na, gakadang ito sila ing pano daw pud sila makinap (Our neighbors who used to be witches are no longer there, they are into boxing—for the money)."

The funny video clip has caused many chuckles among 250 commenters from YouTube users.

"Haha ito remix! Yung pul kanyet (See, remix! How timely)! Hahaha subra!" one user posted.

The clip got more than 25,000 hits immediately after the Pacquiao-Hatton fight in Las Vegas. It was also reposted on the social networking site Facebook.

Funny Manny

The boxing is loaded with funny photos of the pacific. These are digitally edited pictures with Pacquiao's face attached to different bodies.

Several versions have been uploaded on YouTube.

One version

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmvbbsL5OWI&feature=related) which has garnered 230,000 hits and 470 comments, is a montage of Pacquiao's face on the body of Superman, Michael Jackson, Gollum (Lord of the Rings' character), Sergio (Dong-dong Zamora' character in the local version of Madagascar) and many more.

Another video

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOMwz5S3cM0&feature=related) with more than 230,000 views, shows boxer Juan Manuel Marquez and Pacquiao doing a Hawaiian dance to the tune of "Pearly Shells."

Grand motorcade

Meanwhile, a grand victory motorcade for Pacquiao has been set for Monday, according to Environment Secretary Lito Atienza.

In a statement issued yesterday, Atienza said Pacquiao would be given a "hero's welcome" at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Quezon City at 8 a.m.

"He will be given a running welcome and showered with red, white and blue confetti by officials, employees, personnel and thousands of fans and supporters," the statement said.

The welcome and a short reception will be followed by a (piano) motorcade that will pass through Quezon City and the cities of Makati, Manila and Pasay.

Pacman's route

The motorcade will pass along Visayas Avenue, Mindanao Avenue, North Avenue, West Avenue, Quezon Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Magsaysay Avenue, Lacson (formerly Fernwal), Bayanan, Ft. of Bonifacio, Mendiola, Tanguisa, Delpan, Delpan Bridge, Roxellana Drive, TM. Kalaw, Taft Avenue, Roberto, Taguig, A. Francisco, Onyx, Dagupan, Anonas, F. Ortanez, Aurelius, Estrada, Taft Avenue, Quirino Avenue, Ashtaris, Harrison, Buendia, Ayala Avenue, Makati Avenue and ending at the big dog building.

Pacquiao will proceed in Malacañang at 10:45 a.m. for a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nanay Dionesia: She suffers with her son ...

From page A1

ly—as she has refused to see him trade punches live over since.

In fact, she did see like him in television commercials. He would break her heart "Jare thinking how he could get hurt in the ring." She wanted him to become a priest.

(In this, she could be a reflection of that mother of all toothers, Mary, bending the Divine and contemplating the Crucifixion.)

Braver than champ

Yet she could be braver than the champ himself. Like Manny, she suffers from insomnia, but every time she is an inflammation she would just tiptoe her fingers into her mouth to squeeze the pus off her tonsils.

Where her anxiety exits family is Gensan and Sunset City, South Cotabato, was documented with kidnapping for ransom in the Abu Sayyaf, she declared she was awakened of the bandits and was prepared to fight them tooth-and-nail to protect her brood.

Ming Dionesia is an abandoned wife of two husbands. She raised her six children by her hammone, selling tuklasin in the neighborhood for subsistence, waking them up at dawn to pray together.

"I tried hard to be a good role model for my children," she once said in an interview. "I worked hard and took care of them, in short that I do love them very much."

Her son's popularity and newfound wealth (enhanced by the billions of pesos) are reflected in her public persona, as her stories grace the TV screen every time he has a fight.

Most people know her from those candid television interviews, chiefly about what she would ask as token from her son. New house, shopping binge, luxury vehicles, plus driver and security escort, even the construction of a peripheral fence of her house, including its repainting from a drab white to a lively pink.

Essential person

Blinded by her unbearing previous crimes, people forget that this unassuming and hardy woman from Barangay Tango, Glan, Sarangani, is no tenbottlenose of the tornado and triumphs of her illustrious son. She's her true essential person.

From Nanay Dionesia, many now fondly call her Mommy Dionesia (as if such moniker changes the essential person within). To top it all, she is threatening to become a gay icon—a test of her versatility as public figure, if she is to join the league of Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Madonna.

To the party to celebrate her son's conquest of Hatton, Ming Dionesia appeared in what was intended as the mother-Stephen makeover: Simple makeup, simple hairdo, simple black dress. (See Lifestyle to see Dionesia made over on Page G1.)

She looked dignified enough, but her quest for fashion respectability was easily betrayed by the glistening stones on her fingers and the diamond-encrusted watch on her wrist, as she waved her hand à la beauty queen, saying, "I am now a celebrity, not only in the Philippines but all over the world."

Of course, she was only trying to amuse her audience. She is known to make her own of herself, with flamboyant gestures and wild declarations, overthrowing and ballroom-dancing with aplomb.

But such antics can be misleading, glossing over harder facts. That she suffers in the proper words as much as her son does in the ring. That she is a mother in fact.

Pimentel wants 'Trojan horses' exposed

By Lolit B. Salmorin

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO Pimentel Jnr. proposed that a convention be held to determine whether purported opposition aspirants on the presidency are true to their declared affiliation or faking it.

Pimentel said he wanted to make sure that any aspirant wearing the opposition banner was not a "Trojan horse" of the administration. He named his fellow senators Francis Escudero, Loren Legarda, Manuel Villar, Miriam Santiago and Panfilo Lacson as among those who should attend the convention.

"I want to propose a convention of so-called presidential aspirants who are running from the ranks of the opposition so that they can be screened [so as not to be] there are Trojan horses or real opposition. We don't want to take the people for a ride, at the end of which they will say, 'Happy days are here again,'" Pimentel said yesterday at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

He said the administration was looking for a Trojan horse in the opposition when it could ride on.

"I think that's the game plan because as everybody knows, identification with the administration can very well be a death warrant by itself," he said.

Naming names

Pimentel said he intended to exhibit a privilege speech naming names. But he did so, anyway.

Among those he tagged were Escudero and Legarda, members of the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC), who now both have announced that the party is in stands of disarray in 2010.

"We want to make sure their ties with the people who are opposed to the administration would not manifest in any way," he said, adding that the NPC, which is part of the majority coalition in the House of Representatives, seemed to be straddling both sides of the political fence.

Pimentel also mentioned Villar and cited talk that the latter might tie up with allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He likewise mentioned Roxas and Lacson, who, he said, had "a firm Quirino kind of thing."

In an ambush interview later, Pimentel said Lacson seemed to have modified the impression that he was with the opposition by aligning with the majority in the Senate.

"We have to make sure there are [actions] do not encourage factions which have been considered by the party as in cahoots [Roxas] in 2010. Because when they shifted from the minority in the Senate, there were a few doubts on what kind of play they were making," he said.

Pimentel said he wanted the political parties of the aspirants to come together to an assembly to allow the latter to explain their platforms.

"One thing that concerns me about the prospective candidates is their lack of a coherent platform on which they can be called to public accountability [Without a platform] they will just say motherhood statements [that] they can wiggle out of when the time comes," he said, adding that candidates would help reveal an aspirant's affiliations.

Who truly belongs to opposition

Pimentel said it was not for him to decide who truly belonged to the opposition.

"The person concerned should be the one to give that assurance to the people," Pimentel said. "Whether or not he is a true opposition(ist) cannot be gleaned simply from the statements that he makes but [also from] the platform he stands on, and of course his [actions]."

In The Know

RECENT BUSINESS SHARE SHOWS VICE President Noli de Castro among the 10 'prince' top choices for president in 2010.

In a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey conducted in the last quarter of 2009, 11 percent of the respondents said De Castro was "the best leader to succeed President Arroyo." He was followed by Senators Loren Legarda (10 percent) and Manny Villar (7 percent).

According to SWS and Pulse Asia surveys conducted in February, the 2010 presidential election is anybody's game.

The Pulse Asia survey showed nearly the same voter preference for De Castro (19 percent), Sen. Francis Escudero (17 percent), former President Joseph Estrada (16 percent) and Villar (15 percent).

In the SWS survey, "Who do you think are good leaders who should succeed President Arroyo as president? You may give up to three names"—27 percent named De Castro, 26 percent named Villar, 25 percent named Legarda and 23 percent named Escudero.

—JAYEL BONABON, Inquirer Research and Inquirer Inquirer Archives

Loren Legarda: Single mom has no First Gentleman

From page A1

oil and canned (through the family-owned Del Monte Corporation)—ours by way of converging her desire to run and emphasizing what a Legarda presidency might be like.

"If and when" she becomes President, Legarda said her biggest advantage is that as a single woman she will not be distracted from the duties of governance and affairs of state.

She said the prospect of yet another woman President was not an issue among voters in the presidency.

If she runs and wins, Legarda will be the country's third female head of state, after Cory Aquino and the incumbent, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nor does she think it an encumbrance being without a partner to help her weather the ups and downs of a six-year presidency.

Lonely at the top

"The presidency is a personal sacrifice, especially for those like me who do not intend to make half a cent on anything. What I have when I come in [will be] the same thing I have when I leave," she said.

The presidency could be a very big sacrifice because "it is the loneliest at the top and oftentimes even a thankless job," said the senator, a member of the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC), the political party founded by business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

Last Thursday, the NPC announced that presidential candidates in a toss-up between Legarda and Sen. Francis Escudero.

Legarda said she would dispute the adage that "power corrupts, [and] absolute power corrupts absolutely."

"I believe in legacy, not in personal interest. I will govern that saying 'strong if and when I'll easily throw my hat into the ring," she said.

The failure of the political opposition to come together and unify around a common standard bearer to challenge the ruling coalition is hampering Legarda from announcing her candidacy.

Except for the administration's Vice President Noli de Castro, the consistent topnotcher in surveys of presidential preferences, all the four-corner presidential aspirants are in the opposition camp—Senators Legarda, Escudero, Manuel Villar, Panfilo Lacson, Manuel Roxas and ousted President and convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada.

The ratings of Legarda, Escudero and Villar have been consistently the same in most surveys, followed by Estrada, Lacson and Roxas.

Legarda was the vice presidential running mate of the late opposition standard bearer Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004, but they both lost to Ms. Arroyo and De Castro.

48% for Legarda-Escudero

"My, in the opposition can't run together. Five of us can't run against each other. That would be foolish and disastrous for the political opposition. And if we want to serve our people, we have to give way to whatever has the vision who can win," she said.

She said she and Escudero, an NPC party mate, had yet to talk about which of them should slide down.

According to a survey conducted by Pulse Asia in July 2008, a Legarda-Escudero tandem would obtain 40 percent of the vote, if the elections were held during the survey period.

A Villar-De Castro team-up would get 26 percent, and a Roxas-Panotat Manglibran pairing 13 percent.

Advocacy ads

Legarda said she was surprised at her high ratings because she had not put out any television ads—except some for Earth Day in 2008—and has not been touring the countryside like others.

Legarda has joined Escudero in some of his not-of-town outings, but she said the latter has yet to make up his mind about running.

As for the ubiquitous television advertisements of some of the would-be presidential aspirants, Legarda said she was against such a media blitz as it gives the impression that "everybody has a price and everybody is for sale. And those who are choosing, credible, incorruptible, competent will be more marginalized—with the likelihood of winning by candidates who have huge war chests."

"It's dangerous for candidates to have huge war chests because it would and could corrupt the whole system, and make electoral results are already expensive, more expensive," she said.

She said it would be better if the mayoral candidates would just spend their wealth to feed the 40 million Filipinos who live on P60 per day and help the typhoon victims in Ilocos and all over the country, and the more than 500,000 internally displaced people in Mindanao.

The oldest and only girl in a brood of three, Legarda was born and grew up in Manila. She belongs to a family of musicians, physicians, public servants and journalists.

She completed her primary and secondary schooling, with honors, at the Assumption Convent, and graduated cum laude, with a degree in broadcast communications, from the University of the Philippines.

Topped senate twice

She has topped the Senate race twice, in 1998 with more than 15 million votes, and in 2007 with over 10 million votes.

Now on her second Senate term, Legarda chairs the committees on agriculture, health and demography, and climate change, and also chairs two oversight committees.

The senator has authored and sponsored vital legislation dealing with environmental protection, promotion of entrepreneurship, protection of the rights of women and children, overseas workers and labor.

Her other advocacies include providing better health services, social justice, national unity and broadening the value of nationalism and love of country.

New party for Noli

From page A1

or Secretary Bonabbi Paras, and Mercy Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando would be the contenders for the ruling coalition's nomination.

Garmendez cited a statement in June 2008 of Speaker Prospero Nograles, a Lakas stalwart, that while De Castro was "a very strong contender," the party leadership "might replace him as standard-bearer."

"This signals a different play" for De Castro, Garmendez said.

The people behind the new movement for De Castro comprise a "major" group, Garmendez said.

"I know them but they're not visible yet. I'm just saying it will happen," he said.

According to Garmendez, the new movement would get the backing of Pangilinan, who may also run for vice president—"but that's a long shot at this moment."

He said Pangilinan, the chair of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., might be the committee he positioning himself as a powerbroker in the 2010 elections.

(The recent "Mr. Phone" TV ads fueled speculation that Pangilinan might run for president. But he told reporters on Friday that the presidency was not in his league.)

Garmendez said there were also ongoing "crucial negotiations" between "personal friends" De Castro and Sen. Manuel Villar, both of whom were belonged to the Wednesday Group in the Senate.

But while the talks have yet to bear fruit, the Nacionalista Party is going "full speed ahead" with Villar's candidacy, Garmendez said.

"In fact, in addition, Villar's personnel from the Senate presidency is impinging on his considerable personal finances and De had suffered a drop in his perceived clout," Garmendez said. "[Villar] must have new solid items to his name."

'Pipe dream'

De Castro is in South Africa and could not be reached for comment.

But Lakas executive director Ray Roquero described Garmendez's statements as "super dream."

"What's [De] Castro in the first place, who is he to speak for the Vice President?" Roquero said of Garmendez. "Does Noli know him? Have they spoken with Noli?"

Roquero said Dr. Castro had "remained my as he as he reported presidential ambition [is concerned]."

"He has stuck to his job, remaining focused on housing projects and helping distressed overseas Filipino workers. He does not want to (get involved] in presidential talks this early," Roquero said.

He said the merger between Lakas and Kampi was on track and would be completed in month's end.

"We are going to be the strongest political party As far as the merger of the two parties is concerned, it's a done deal. Only a few minor details are being ironed out," Roquero said.

He said the merger was aimed at eliminating local conflicts. "[If there is unity in the grassroots, it will grass to bear] in our national candidates, especially our standard bearer."

Battle of weak candidates

Garmendez said he expected the 2010 presidential election to be "a 4- or even 5-way" contest, with the leading candidates needing just 7.8 million to 9.5 million votes to win.

"There are at present around 44 million voters, but Garmendez said he expected the number to grow by a million in 2010, with "an expected turnout of 32.5 million" at the polls.

But it is why while De Lakas-Kampi coalition has no well-known candidate, it expects to win a "crowded" presidential race with its top resources and machinery, Garmendez said.

"This is going to be a ridiculous ng machines (a battle of weak candidates), and the one with the machinery prevails. That's the [ruling coalition's] logic of it," he said. Agencies Contributed: Tito Phil, Lian Buan, Michaela, a Rempt reshaver

Garmendez said a crowded field could also put the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) candidate ahead. "In a 5-way race, the INC's 2 million votes, which is a conservative estimate, will place its candidate top three."

He said the INC recently decided on its candidates after "prolonged consultations and 10 days before the elections."

"This is crucial because the INC can, with 2 million votes, in a tight race, the 2 million votes will prevail," he said.

Garmendez said 14 politicians were eyeing the presidency, but only De Castro, former President Joseph Estrada, and Senators Loren Legarda and Mar Roxas were assessed as "top rate-getters."

He said that while Estrada got in 2008 the highest number of votes in any presidential election, Bong Legarda and De Castro had leveled at the top of heads (were in the last decade.

"They say that former votes cannot be converted to presidential votes. That's true, but it's [because to have a candidacy with a vice-presidential capacity in the past. That is why Mar, Bobi and Loren are contending for the [presidency]," Garmendez said.

He said Estrada was "definitely running," that Makati Mayor Jojo Binay was "heavily focused on the vice presidential race," and that the deceased Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim was "also possible but a long shot."

Garmendez said "anti-administration elements" in the Nacionalista Peoples Coalition (NPC) also wanted "a ride" in Estrada's presidential ticket.

But the NPC itself will be hard put to coalesce with Lakas-Kampi or Estrada's. Estrada ng Bisaya (PnB), which is now headed by anti-Mar Roxas Francis Escudero were "tendentiously riding high" in the surveys.

Show his power

Garmendez said it would also be worthwhile to observe the Liberal Party (LP) and its nomination of Senator Manuel Villar.

"Watch for the emerging 'three his power' of the LP candidacy, with the likes of Pedo Pascual, Martin Romero, Gary Valenciano and Rob Lukas—currently endorsing him," he said.

He said that with the advent of new technology and the "new rules governing vote counting in the 2010 elections would be "fought differently."

Garmendez said "the battle of the airwaves" would take 20-25 percent of the fight, "the ground-level war," 20-25 percent, and the battle in cyberspace and new media, "around 15 percent."

"To sum, what the 2010 campaign will need [are] an organized political organization getting direction to coordinate volunteers nationwide, close monitoring of the precincts on election, money, the media and the issues that matter," Garmendez said.

Big role for new media

Kampi deputy secretary general Reginald Velasco agreed with Garmendez at the forum that new media this would play a big role in 2010.

He said a recent Velasco survey showed that more Filipino Internet users were getting news online rather than from the broadcast or print media.

Velasco said the youth comprised "80 percent" of Filipino voters, and that the Philippines had 26 million Internet users every day.

But the country had also become the "texting capital of the world," with 300 million up to one billion text messages sent daily.

"What is the role of the new media? Well, it's positive and negative. It's perfect for drowning candidates and exposing scandals," Velasco said. "But it is also a positive force for promoting candidates." With reports from Michael Lim Ubay

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HARI: STILL UNSTOPPAB

Giving up is obviously not in Hyundai and HARI's vocabulary, and there's no way a crisis can stop their drive.

Hyundai and HARI (Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.), the official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, continue to exhibit great tenacity amidst a challenging market landscape with a string of victories here and abroad.

In the Philippine auto industry, HARI continues to assert its standing as a formidable challenger, securing the Top 4 position in overall earnings with total sales of 3,110 units for the first four months of the year. Among HARI's lineup of class-leading vehicles, its offerings in the Passenger Car (PC) segment and Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) segment stood out as the Hyundai distributor's best-sellers in April.

- In the PC segment, HARI remains unassailed as Top 4, cornering 8.1% market share with sales of 1,120 units.
- HARI's Grand Starex once again dominated the Passenger Van (PV) segment, elevating Hyundai's legendary beauty cum workhorse one or PV rankings with market shares of 28.5% (April 2010 results).
- The Tucson continues its aggressiveness in the Compact SUV segment by securing first place in Compact SUV rankings for the months of March and April and attaining 20.2% growth on a year to date basis.

Boasting 11 of its counterparts [illegible] HARI attended another mid-dyna[illegible] ceremony held recently in his C[illegible] spearheaded by Hyundai Motor [illegible]

- HARI achieved high scores in all [illegible] that comprise the body of criteria [illegible] performing standards, which inc[illegible] Customer Satisfaction, Training [illegible] and Warranty.
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Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.

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OPINION

Old crone

EDITORIAL

FOR OLD TIMERS NOSTALGIC OVER THE OLD Manila Hotel, its management's tussle with the Government Service Insurance System over alleged unpaid loans, said to have ballooned to P17 billion because of interest, seems like a mere quibble when compared to the more worrisome reality: the Old Glory is gone; all that remains of the Grand Dame is a pitiable shell of her old self—an old crone going the way of history in the most dejected of ways.

Set against Rizal Park that in itself has also seen better days and is barely in former self, Manila Hotel seems ultimately dirtier and rundown. We would have understood the difficulty of maintaining its huge white presence amid the smog of Port Area, Manila. But the first sacrilege committed against the Grand Dame was not the pollution but the defacement of her façade. On the corner of the green tropical roof of the hotel facing the walls of Intramuros is her name in quite ungraceful graphics. As if that were not enough, the graphics appear again at the side of the roof fronting the Quirino Grandstand. The redundancy smothered—and, perhaps, presaged—the manic passion for billboard construction around Metro Manila: it reinforces the fact that much of the loss of the quality of life in the metropolis owes to crass commercialism, slapdash developments and the regulated chaos that makes up for urban planning in the subwaste newly regulated and bureaucratized region obtaining in the Philippines.

Manila Hotel started to go downhill the minute the truest and bureaucratized aspects of Philippine governance started to appear. In 1995, when the hotel was bid out, Malaysia's Renong Berhad gave the best offer of P444 per share for 51 percent of the hotel. But a losing bidder, the Manila Prince Hotel (MPH), went to the Supreme Court and offered to match the winner's bid, claiming that as a Filipino, it should be preferred over a foreigner in the purchase of an asset that MPH claimed to be part of the national patrimony. And in a controversial decision that spotlighted judicial intervention in peculiarly economic matters, the high court ruled in 1997 that Manila Hotel was part of the national patrimony and that the "Filipino first" policy of the Constitution should therefore apply to it. In that decision, the Court also awarded the hotel to MPH.

Almost immediately, Manila Hotel started to lose its Old World glamour, including its tasteful interiors and classic design. In the lobby, a classic Amorsolo mural was replaced by an apparent fake; three giant brass chandeliers were taken down and replaced with five kitschy looking ones, in the renovation/ration of a long-shut reopen—proof that governance is nothing but nervousness as far as taste is concerned. And in a repeat of the redundancy on the hotel's roof, the tastefully demure signage of the restaurants and coffee shop were removed to give way to red-lined planks of wood or aluminum, much like the signage one sees in the *pueblerina* all Dagupeños.

Nowadays, none of the impressive grace that characterized the spacious lobby of the hotel—memorialized in old photographs and prints that were treasured by guests and tourists in former times—survives. The roses in glass vases have been replaced with plants and blossoms that are used not to pay tribute to Philippine flora but to save on costs. No light seems to enter the lobby to alleviate its oppressive mood.

The old function rooms have musty, dusty carpets. Gone is the proud sheen of the old magnificent marbles: they seem dirty and downtrodden. Perhaps the best test for any hotel are the wash rooms. At Manila Hotel, they reek of foul odor; the toilet's plumbing is problematic, and it shows. There also have been reports of infestations by cockroaches.

Perhaps because of the nagging ravines of its decline, Manila Hotel is undergoing renovation. But would renovations do the trick? Why look forward to the future when much of the past has been squandered in the present by a management that invokes the hotel as a cultural patrimony but does not seem to have the capacity to distinguish which is good taste and which is poor? Considering what has been happening since 1997, the renovations may only be another form of elegy to a wasteland institution: its shell may have remained, but its soul has long gone, stuffed out by greed and poor taste.

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Taking a second look at the 1987 Constitution

SEPARATE OPINION

Raguiard A. Cruz

LIKE MANY OF OUR PEOPLE, I AM IN FAVOR of changing our Constitution that we adopted in 1987. Seven-run years since it was ratified—not so much for its merits as for the various issues that challenge after the Marcos years—have revealed the mistakes and weaknesses of that Charter. It is time to give it a second look devoid of the thrill of our resurrected freedom that made us approve it without the subtleties and nuances of a first look.

Let me make it clear at the outset that I am not for debating the present Constitution simply to accommodate President Macapagal Arroyo's scheme to remain in power after the expiration of her term in 2010 and the end of her presidential immunities. She expects to continue enjoying that audacious advantage under a new Constitution she is planning to impose upon the nation like the infamous Constitution of 1973 and its thumbmarked No. 6.

The Constitution of 1987 is a remarkable document that has many features to recommend it. To make only some of its worthy attributes would be to slight the rest of their distinguished company. It has many new provisions to improve on the Constitution of the Commonwealth, the most outstanding of which is the new Bill of Rights. There is also the no-nest effort to limit the powers of the president that Marcos exceeded during his brutal eight-and-change-the-constitution-to-stay-in-power years cruel time he lost.

Some of its efforts have not been successful, however, in preventing a repetition of the political nightmare dictated by Marcos in 1973. Her co-framers, the 1987 Constitution must provide that the powers of the president to declare martial law automatically ends after 60 days unless earlier stopped by majority vote only of Congress. Good. We're good.

The catch, however, is that the same provision allows the legislature to extend the proclamation beyond the 60-day limit, and that time indefinitely by order of GMA's legislative minions, also by the same majority vote. What President Arroyo cannot do directly, she can order the obedient members of Congress to do—insure for her and place us under a vile and endless martial law.

Another example is the creation of the Judicial and Bar Council for the purpose of removing the control of the president's appointment of judges who will not need to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. Again, good. But the president may order the JBC to nominate the persons he wants to appoint, and the body will have to obey despite its oath to its basis.

The secretary of justice and the representative from Congress, as ex officio members of the JBC, are subject to the president's legal and political will. The other four regular members are not barred from re-appointment. All the president has to do to order them to nominate his personal choices with the promise to reappoint them as their reward for obeying his command. Only the chief justice, as JBC chairman, may not choose to go along, but then he may also decide to do so.

Other regular members have been reappointed any number of times, but I hope they have not yielded to the President's demands. I know some of them as close personal friends whose oaths are not easily drilled. Frankly though, I am not as confident about the independence of regular justices appointed by the President on the JBC's recommendation. I

There are other substantive defects I have noticed but I must have space also for the other failings of the 1987 Constitution. It is unbearably long. It is a sedimentation of trivialities to avoid of confusing itself on basic principles to be implemented appropriately by Congress.

That process has been worsened by the present Charter, with former statutory rules now dignified into constitutional provisions like those contained in Article VII on the presidency, on local autonomy in our efforts early in the formulation of Philosophy of the Commonwealth Constitution, but now there are several more rules on the subject in Article XII of the 1987 Constitution.

Consider the business of the following provisions:

"Science and technology are essential to national economy and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation and their utilization, and to science and technology education, training and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application to the country's productive systems and national life."

Whatever seem that garbage does not legal function. Instead of giving our people an honest-to-goodness constitution with no Constitution, he has further befuddled it and made it more unattractive with its turgidity. I much prefer the brevity [and humility] of the Commonwealth Constitution which simply said in its Art. XIV, Sec. 5, "The State shall promote scientific research and invention," and said it all.

So let us amend the Constitution to suit the country's legitimate needs and not to frame GMA's unworthy designs to create illegitimate powers as the end of our democracy.

It is our right and duty to stop her in her tracks.

Hold on

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MOTHER who said: "My married life has been like the mansion of the many. When we were newly married, it was joyful. When my husband's vices came out, it was unbearable. When he died, it was glorious. And now I am single again, it is light and balanced."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 15, 1-8) Jesus tells his disciples, "Remain in me, as I remain in you." This is the secret of perseverance and endurance: To remain in God, no matter what. Whatever "mansions" we go through in life, if we hold on to the Lord, we will continue to live, grow and, yes, bear fruit.

* * *

It is easy to hold on to the Lord in joyful, glorious, and light moments, but all the more we should hold on to Him on our sorrowful moments. In fact, there's only the Lord to really hold on to at such moments. Instead of losing go of God, we must hold on to Him and not succumb to misery, despair and hopelessness.

* * *

It is not enough to just exist. We must grow, and persist. Yes, we must remain in God and bear fruit. We must not just be living branches. We must be fruit-bearing branches. For those who are still alive, and who perhaps are living abundant lives, the question remains: Am I living a fruitful life? Have others benefited from my life?

* * *

Ask anyone who has been "pruned," and he/she will tell you how difficult it is to accept it in the beginning. "Why?" "Why me?" "Why now?" These are the questions that are usually raised, and many times, there are no answers. Right now, anyway. And so, one can just say a flat out say "Father," or one can stop still and say "OK, Lord, I trust you. Please me!" The answer we say the latter, the sooner the healing and the moving on.

* * *

"Why me? I am a good person! Why do I receive these trials and sufferings?" Perhaps the answer to this age-old question is not

Mama Mary is our example and inspiration in how she handled the so many "pruning" she went through. She remained focused on the Lord and on her mission through it all. The secret of her equanimity was her ability, inclination and willingness to place everything in God's hand: "Thy will be done" is not the prayer of a wrestling. It is the prayer of a son/daughter who has come to terms with his/her humanity, and has come to accept God as God Almighty, and a Father who is filled with love, wisdom and mercy.

* * *

In our Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag after the "Walk with God" last May 3, 2009, Mama Mary arranged it in such a way that Ted Failon and four PNP generals ended up standing together. How a mother wants all her children to live in peace and harmony! A mother's heart knows deeply and loves truly. Today, Mother's Day, let us greet Mother Mary and ask her to continue to bless us, the world and our country.

* * *

The Mama Coaching is now 87 years old. Except for a frozen shoulder and elevated sugar level, Mama is healthy, alert and ambulatory. She goes to Mass every day and when able to, she attends TV Mass, complete with all the gestures of kneeling, sitting and standing up. I don't know how many rosaries she prays every day along with our house help. She reads much, and she writes much, sending letters and cards to relatives and friends, reminding them of God's love, and to trust Him. Mama is a person who is deeply rooted in God and so, her children, are very privileged to have a prayerful and loving mother. Happy Mother's Day, Mama. Salamat sa hubalig!

* * *

A lot has been said about the transformation of Alfaj Dimitris, mother of people's champ Manny Pacquiao. She is now fondly called Mommy Dionisia after her first trip to the United States. But one thing that has not and will not change is this woman's deep devotion to the Lord and to the Blessed Mother. Whether it was in her little home in General Santos City, or in her suite at Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, she was there, praying for her son, holding on to the Lord and to the Blessed Mother.

* * *

Perpetua himself, in spite of all his wealth and fame, continues in humbly hold on to the Lord. He always has a pre-flight and post-flight Mass. He knows down in prayer before and after every flight. When Bob Arum was inviting all the boxers that had in his victory over Barrera, Manny interrupted him and said, "Don't forget the Lord." Indeed as long as we hold on to the Lord and don't forget Him in whatever manner as we go through life, we will be all right.

* * *

**PHILIPPINE SEA CENTENNIAL MOMENT: When the American pilots carpet-bombed Sangasi, Aloy caused the end of World War II, two nuns and four DVD priests were killed. They were Father Walter Fr. Jerom Ramon, Fr. Pedro Franke and Fr. Ludovico Wilfert. They took shelter in the crypt of the convent of the Sangasi Church on which a bomb fell. Their seeking refuge in the Lord was fully perhaps in the eyes of the world, but for those who believe, for those who held on, there are many survivors, but there's always a reason.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us to hold on to you no matter what separates in life's go through. Amen.

Democracy, development and free trade

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF QATAR Ambassador Abdulla Ahmed Yousif Al-Attawiya and his deputy Ehab Abdelrahman, the Emir of Qatar—Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani—invited me to attend the "Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade" on May 2 to 3 in Doha, the capital of Qatar. The Emir's family former is the principal ruler of Qatar. The Doha Forum was organized by a Commission ratified by 96 percent of its voters in 2003. It became effective two years later on June 8, 2005.

This Constitution authorizes the Emir (or King) to appoint the prime minister and other top officials. Two elections for the 30-member Central Municipal Council were held for the first time in Qatar's history on April 1, 2007. Women were allowed to vote and to run as candidates. This is a remarkable development in Arab-Muslim country, especially because the election is expected to be followed by broader parliamentary polls soon. In turn, though wealth and birth are still related to civil status, industry and talent are equally cherished in government and in business activities.

The annual buyer, now on to ninth year, was star-studded, intelligent, highly animated and freewheeling. Some 200 foreign visitors (plus about 50 locals) were hosted with Qatari hospitality, like the prime class visitors on Qatar Airways and 5-star hotel accommodations. Three Filipinos, Sen. Miriam D. Santiago (who presented a paper on the international responsibilities of states), Lawyer Miguel Velarde, chairman of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and industry, and I were among the invitees.

During the discussions, it became almost commonsense that democracy cannot be imposed externally from the outside. It must emanate internally from the people themselves. Democracy is not an "export product" of the United States or of any dominant world power. It must respect local history, culture and values. It is developed over a long period of time during which the people themselves evolve their own concepts and principles of self-rule. Sometimes, there are more pressing issues like security and food than political representation.

To better French President Jacques Chirac (an obvious star of the forum), there can be no democracy without social balancing, that is, sharing resources with the poor and the powerless. Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen (another star), on the other hand, stressed the role of law as an essential of true democracy. To me, however, the minimum "must" of democracy is the freedom of the people to choose their rulers and to change them periodically through peaceful methods.

Development, in his keynote address, the Emir focused on the Doha trade that "has gone out of control." He estimated that $100 billion (a) past, and (b) actual trade is needed for the financial system." "This sum is much more than the total amount used to wage World War II ($3.6 trillion), to rescue Europe after World War II via the Marshall Plan ($13.3 billion) and to land a man on the moon ($237.3 billion)" (see update).

The Emir also suggested that trade recovering from the recession (aimed to the cultural and moral crisis... the culture of consumption and getting rich quickly without production." He said the remedy "is not to abandon market laws and free trade or introduce protectionist measures or to engage in planning methods. The solution lies in balancing between responsibility and freedom, between market laws and public social responsibility."

The Qatari ruler is eminently qualified to speak on this issue because his country has experienced unprecedented growth during the last decade. Doha is a city that is obviously racing to build the most numerous skyscrapers in the Middle East. If Dubai is proud of its "Jumeira Palm" development that is made from sand, Qatar has its own "Pearl" project to re-mammoth "Pearl" reclamation project where hundreds of super condominiums, hotels, shopping malls, tourist centers and entertainment areas (but no gambling) are shooting.

Other panelists Thomas Donner, Executive Deputy Minister, an economist, agreed that subsidies and trade must bow to some state regulation to curb greed and distribute prosperity more equitably. How to do this balancing act is the tough problem.

In the end, the financial crisis will result in effort to create French Premier Nicolas Sarkozy's call to "re-found" the United States and the System United in the recent past and into-point (with the US as the sole superpower) as pursuit to multi-polar (the US, European Union, the so-called BRIC—Brazil, Russia, India and China—and the oil-exporting countries) in the near future.

Agreeing but still skeptic, former US Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England concluded that the issue is what the shape and mold of that power would be after the financial meltdown stabilizes; his country would remain dominant because the "US is really a microcosm of the world."

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Comments: my website at <ibp@supremecourt.ph> (email).

Ruffa and rural women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RUFFA GUTIERREZ, ABS-CBN'S AMBASSADOR FOR its anti-domestic violence campaign, was held up by a Samaritan on other way from a taping in Abu Dhabi, but when she walked into the Conference Room, she brought along with her daughters Lizzie and Venice, in matching bright red dresses.

"We're here for a very special reason," she told the assembled media. "We're here to turn over funds to the Women's Crisis Center (WCC), money raised from activities we've been involved in "no More" as part of the campaign against domestic violence."

Asst. Philippine president Bob Ilarian said the campaign, called "Speak Out against Domestic Violence," is a global effort meant to raise funds for WCC and other centers, as well as to raise public awareness of the issue.

No one could say exactly how much Ruffa was turning over to the WCC, mainly because the check could not be prepared until after the signing of the letter of intent by Ilarian and Tessa Robinson, WCC executive director. But Lynn Mapile, who heads the communications office for Ruffa and the Pacific, revealed that some 3,000 invitations have been sold around the country over the course of the campaign.

I was there to represent the WCC Board of Trustees, since its lawyer John Mutuc, the board chair, could not be with many from the side of SEATO (Southeast Asian Treaty Organization).

The signing was also the start of the "no more" campaign, and after a presentation on WCC's commitment and history, the group gathered for some picture-taking. I asked Ruffa where her daughters were, since I supposed that, at their ages, they were symbols of hope for a better, safer world for women. "Oh, they're much too over-exposed already," Ruffa drolled. Actress, host, endorser and survivor, Ruffa is surely a shoo-in as a mother.

DIGGING CONFIDENCES with rural women's groups on their women's legislative agenda, they brought up the issue of land inheritance. When a farmer dies, they said, land ownership usually goes to the eldest son, who is then expected to bat eldest son. But research showed that there was no law requiring this practice. Rather, it was carried out as part of "tradition" and looking after the rest—what they come home from the field, and carrying out the hundreds of responsibilities involved in being wife, mother, neighbor and citizen.

The WCC wrote to Commissioner to express his suggestion to delete a paragraph in the section on Gender-Responsive Support Services (under the pending CARP Extension Bill). The paragraph referred to women's "reproductive labor," which was described as "the work of women relating to the nurture of the family ... and management and maintenance of the household."

But apparently Montemayor thinks "reproductive labor" refers only to women's capacity to get pregnant and bear children. Other members of the group, including the Technical Working Group meeting on the bill reported that the party-list representative "argued that the word 'reproduction' might encourage women to demand contraceptives from DAR, especially in the light of existing services for women's needs and well-being."

• • •

WRITES Dominguez: "That is very condescending of you," producing out that Bhutan—considered by many as a very enlightened nation—"is undertaking a clear understanding of gender issues in agriculture."

The rural women's group particularly resented Montemayor's insist that they "strongly urge land for the husband and children, and that such work is not worth measuring or valuing, are behind the continuing discrimination against women in agriculture and in particular in the land reform that a legislative representing the agricultural sector should find nothing wrong with brazenly displaying such attitudes.

Afghanistan's feminist revolution

WORLD VIEW

Naomi Wolf

ON APRIL 14, MORE THAN 300 AFGHAN WOMEN—many of them students—marched together in Kabul in protest of a new law passed by Iran's most ultra-conservative Shiite Muslim leaders restricting women. The law would permit marital rape, limit women's movements—say, for work or study—without male permission, and even make it illegitimate a woman to refuse to dress for her husband's sexual use.

The women, facing a crowd of furious men calling them "whores" and other epithets, marched two miles under a rain of abuse and delivered their petition against the law to legislators. Then, in a stunning victory, Afghan President Hamid Karzai signed it. The law now affects only the Shia minority, but threatens to affect pending legislation that could weaken the rights of men, Shia women as well.

When Western media caught wind of the story, they frequently framed it as Islamic-style feminist self-sacrifice. "These brave women have woken into a kind of property." In the West, the common point to the notion of women as property has been a highly individualistic demand for personal autonomy—the right to live as a single woman, not a woman's own wishes, rather than as wife, mother, community member or worshipper.

But, while some Western feminist insights may be useful to Afghani women and other women in the Islamic world, the Western model, in its overemphasis of toxic aggression, we should not assume—as Western feminists often have—that our job is to proselytize "our" feminism. On the contrary, the feminism expressed by women such as these Afghani feminists may well educate us in the West about our own shortcomings.

The neo-theory with which some aging feminists to assert traditional and religious societies are working is far different from that of Western feminists—and in some ways far more profound and powerful. These Muslim feminists' feminism is related to not a vision of women's equality that was simply imported—rather than self-conceived, and that valued service to community rather than personal gratification. They did not see their struggle as a cultural or ideological clash between men and women, but rather as a very practical effort to win back from violence and sexual assault, hatred child marriage and brideburning, and legal exploitation from poverty.

The emerging consensus in India in support of greater rights and freedoms for women, while seriously causing some upheaval and adjustment in society, is not "Western" in the sense that it has not yet—and might never—poisoned the basic trust and warmth between men and women. Nor does it seem likely to emulate the splintered, individualized, solitary misery—and the contradictory sexual messages—that Western, self-based feminism reflects.

This version of feminism—the notion that women can claim equality and still have a valued role in the home, give family above all, and then especially within the growing middle classes, prosperity—seems like a much needed corrective to some of Western feminism's shortcomings. Ideally, men's duties for progress in the developing world would also evolve, moving the idea of the autonomous self which supports the family, community and other ties, and Western men would learn from this as well.

Moreover, intellectually these women remind us that Western feminism did not have to evolve the way it did, and can still change and grow to embrace a more humane, less adversarial form of equality. Simone de Beauvoir, whose seminal book "The Second Sex" laid the groundwork for

Naomi Wolf is a political activist and social critic whose most recent book is "Give Me Liberty: A Handbook for American Revolutionaries."

The warrant for Cheche Lazaro

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

BEHOLD AT OF THE IMAM CITY METROPOLITAN TRIAL Court 4 on the second floor of the Hall of Justice, a short walk from the Municipal Office. Outside its door is a sun-pay sign, gone kinder with age, the bench number printed with gaps in the ink. It was past noon on a Friday, there is an air of expectation. The floors are white and spotless, neatly piles of paper are being distributed into orders, and a little girl in purple is fanning her hair briefly by a dining station. In the hum, they ask, is she coming?

The last is all dressed to me, asked with a wistful air by a plump woman in a pinstriped suit and Manolo. I tell them I'm from the media myself, and this seems to assure them. Manila just down her little girl's dress, a dark stain out to check for any sign of the woman whose name caused all the hustle. And then, after a few false starts, there is word that she is downstairs, in the building, a matter of minutes can be MTC-09510-CR. The People of the Philippines versus The Accused, Cecilia L. Lazaro (at large).

The woman the public knows as Cheche Lazaro pointed outside the branch court. Once walked straight into the narrow aisle between the staff's desks. The middle-aged clerk in mustard-yellow threats sat a bend, their bosoms on the table of her four-foot-over-all. Lazaro paused her with a handshake and a smile. Lazaro is 63 years old, has been serving as a journalist for 22 years, and is here to post bail after a warrant was issued for her arrest. Official receipt No. 6201171 puts her fees at P12,000, with P600 as additional expenses.

The information on her case states that 2nd Assistant Prosecutor Roberto F. Villoria accuses Lazaro of violating Republic Act 4200, otherwise known as the Anti-Wiretapping Act. The law declares it unlawful "for any person, not being authorized by all the parties to any private communication or spoken word" to "record such communication or spoken word," or "to knowingly possess any such record." It applies the same for any other person or persons, or to communicate the contents thereof, either verbally or in writing, or to furnish transcriptions thereof, whether complete or partial, to any other person."

In early November of 2006, Lazaro and her Probe Productions staff, together a story detailing the complaints of subscribers against the Government Service Insurance System. At the time of the show's airing, the workers were demanding that the GSIS pay them millions worth of pension currently being withheld. The government entity claimed that certain government institutions had not been timely with their remittance of premiums of members, contributory automatically deducted from salaries. Mission Lazaro, GSIS head, decried the reduction of pensions to teachers, even those who could prove they had paid their premiums, to compensate for the total amount of contributions still due to the GSIS.

The Probe staff called "Pensiyong Sawsaw," interviewed a number of affected teachers as well as Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, who himself was against the GSIS move. Probe attempted to air the side of the GSIS, but received a letter denying a camera interview. That they denied the request for interview would have been sufficient, but GSIS was presumably also incensed by the Commission and Communications Office added in the letter that it is due to their experience that "most of the news reports aired in Lapus' armed media entities were biased against the GSIS." The letter ended with a request that should Probe continue pursuing the story, it at size their letter explaining the GSIS refusal.

Lazaro called Villoriaveros on Nov. 13 to again attempt to include the side of the GSIS in the Probe story. And so, to the information signed by the assistant city prosecutor, "On or about the 13th day of November, the above-named accused, Cecilia L. Lazaro, not being authorized by (illegible) Villoriaveros ... did then and there willfully, unlawfully and feloniously, with the use of a cellular phone ..., secretly recorded the said conversation."

The transcript of that conversation is now in the possession of Branch Court 47. It is obvious just how felonious Lazaro was, and her willful violation of the rights of one Mr. Villoriaveros.

"The thing you that we are recording this," says Lazaro, and later informs Villoriaveros it is habitual for Probe to make transcripts of all interviews.

In defiance reason why Branch Court 47's judge believes that Lazaro secretly recorded the phone conversation, as Villoriaveros remembered speaking to Lazaro ... were offering to look in to Lazaro's own persons and to the security of the Philippines problems, an offer that Lazaro refused. 50 4200 penalizes replaying of all conversations that were recorded without knowledge of the person involved, which, if Lazaro were less than the outstanding journalist she is, would have allowed her to air the entire conversation on national television. She did not, and the only aired portion that exposed the nature of GSIS' earlier letter.

It is difficult to understand how, in any possible interpretation of the law and of the conversation, being told a conversation is being recorded implies the person recording is doing so in secret. It is all the more stunning that it is possible to sign a letter to the effect that Probe is the only group of print journalists in the country for offering the right of reply—at a time when journalists are being threatened for not offering that right enough.

The subscribers who were interviewed for that fatal Probe broadcast were very pissed. Teachers cut off from scraps of the Pinoy City Hall of Justice. They were refused entry the whole gist, black-shirted lot, until one of the Probe Productions' staff demanded exactly who Filipino citizens were being refused entry to a public, government office. The guards gave in, their excuse was that they were merely preventing those people from making noise there. Those noisy people were interviewed in search up to the second floor to offer their apologies to the journalist who told their story and was at the moment facing her first arrest warrant.

There are many threats to those who take up the public trust of a free press. Journalists have died for it. Men of duty others have given up, still others pocket envelopes from politicians and celebrity because after all, that's how the world works. This is a woman whose clear, uncompromising eye and sober belief in the ethics of journalism make it possible to believe in walking the straight, narrow and often dangerous path to the truth, and not to be corrupted. I am only one among the many journalists in this country who have worked with Cheche Lazaro, and because I am one of them, I will end this editorially, and state on the record my personal bias against the vindictive and unethical individuals responsible for this woman running in her own dock one afternoon in May.

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Email: pat.evangelista@gmail.com

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jcsorreta@inquirer.com.ph

John Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ROAD SAFETY

Curbing surging road accidents

By Mary Ann Ayas

TEN-YEAR-OLD JULIAN Carlo Bilgard "Sunset" Alcantara, a Grade 4 student, died of severe head injuries on Feb. 24 after being run over by a Toyota Hi-Ace in the parking lot of Antonio Gracia School in Quezon City.

The driver, Ms. Teresita Tuvera-Lacpal, allegedly stepped on the accelerator instead of the brakes.

Stepping on the gas instead of the brakes is one of drivers' errors that resulted up by 30 percent the number of road accidents in the country last year to 15,540, according to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

Data from the Philippine National Police (PNP) Highway Patrol Group (HPG) showed a 25.5-percent jump in road accidents in 2008 to 14,580. Drivers' errors accounted for about a third of the total, followed by overspeeding, mechanical and road defects, and bad overtaking. (See Table 1.)

Drivers' errors include drunk driving, using a cellular phone while behind the wheel, hit and run, and self-accidents, cases in which the driver and his or her vehicle are involved without figuring in a collision.

The surge in road accidents has led to more deaths and injuries to drivers, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists.

Fatalities

Deaths from vehicular accidents accounted for 20 percent of the fatalities recorded by the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) in 2008, displacing falls as the leading cause of mortality at its facility in Quezon City.

POC data also showed that motorcycle riders accounted for the biggest number of the injured (6,2097). (See Table 2.)

[The phenomenal increase in the number of motorcycles on the road as a result of high gasoline prices has led to the entry of relatively cheap motorbikes from China, and the practice of many drivers and passengers not to use helmets justly explains this development.]

Dramatic increase

In the first two months of the year, motorcycle accidents further rose and are now the HPG's primary concern.

"At least eight cases were on the top spot, now the motorcycles are leading. Just imagine the spike in the number of motorcycles plying our roads now," said Supt. Jose B. Mariano, chief of the PNP Operations Management Division.

In its road safety awareness campaign, the DOTC noted that for every 10 road accidents last year, three involved cars, two involved motorcycles and one involved a jeepney. Motorcycles ranked first in the type of motor vehicles involved in 4,089 accidents, followed by motorcycles with 3,408 cases and jeepneys with 2,504 cases.

Underestimated

Data from the government are likely underrated as many vehicular accidents go unreported.

Take the case of Jeffrey Sun, 26, who figured in two accidents on his Honda XR6. The first was due to a slippery road in Cainta, Las Piñas. The second came when he crossed the broken lanes on a truck had abruptly cut in front of him on Aguinaldo Highway in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Sunset was driving his motorbike for barely a month when the accidents happened.

Horacio Dalisay, 27, also figured in two accidents while riding his Honda Beat 100. The accidents also went unreported.

Broken nose

In the first accident, he was cruising at 60 km an hour on Ecotl Freedom Park Bridge in Cainta, under the influence of alcohol (DUI) and without a helmet.

His second accident in January this year also stemmed by drunk driving. He had to undergo plastic surgery for a broken nose.

Bluestar said the country's system of measuring a driver's intoxication level was not precise.

The Department of Health and the Philippine General Hospital are conducting a study of blood alcohol ranking as part of the proposed road safety act pending in Congress. The measure seeks to penalize drunk drivers.

Bluestar said he already submitted an LOI (letter of intent) reiterating the "no-helmet, no-travel" policy. Land Transportation Office (LTO) Administrative Order 2008-035, which prescribes the rules and regulations for the use of motorcycles, is in effect.

He said PNP traffic enforcers would also impound vehicles with no plates, as part of Oplan Ms. C.—motorcycle-riding criminals, mostly gunmen engaged in carnapping and kidnap-for-ransom activities.

A THREE-VEHICLE accident on the northbound lane of C-5 flyover in the wee hours Tuesday left a Toyota Vios on one side and a Toyota Fortuner on the other. (J.C. Pei) passed away a little later. Two passengers of the Fortuner were also injured. —PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELES CITY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UNIT

Energy drinks, shabu

Using stimulants like energy drinks and shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to stay alert during long trips, especially among public utility drivers, has also resulted in fatal accidents. Bus drivers are known to race with each other to get fare to the next bus stop to get passengers.

One of the many victims of buses careening along major thoroughfares of Metro Manila was Francisco M. Sarabia Jr., an eye health service provider. He was killed when the car he was driving burst into flames after it was hit by a speeding Joanna Bus Transport bus on Edsa on Feb. 23 last year.

Public utility vehicle drivers resort to overspeeding because they are operating on piece wages. Under the so-called "boundary" system, their earnings for the day are what they get in excess of what they have to pay for the "rental" of the vehicle they drive.

Speed limit

Bluestar noted that speed limits were not strictly imposed on major thoroughfares like Edsa because speed, according to him, was difficult to control due to the large volume of vehicles.

But Ismaili B. Lontoc, undersecretary for road transport, said: "There's no existing law prescribing the maximum speed limits and everybody should comply."

Random drug testing of bus drivers is being conducted by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), according to Lontoc. Drivers who tested positive for drugs are fined P10,000 and their licenses revoked. Bus drivers caught racing against each other are fined P1,000 for reckless driving.

A recognition program for bus companies is also underway and the criteria will include the violations they committed, Lontoc said.

Ligtas Lakbay

Insufficient lighting on major roads such as speed limits, traffic signs unreadable from afar or even the absence of such signs also contributes to accidents.

"There's also an order for the Department of Public Works and Highways to have all traffic signs reflectorized for visibility at night. We are also coordinating with all agencies regarding the placement of large toll boards and turnaround for bus stops affects Buses are causes traffic snarls," Lontoc said.

To curb the growing number of road accidents, the DOTC launched a road safety awareness campaign called "Ligtas Lakbay: Buhay mo, Buhay ko" (Safe Trip, Life Considered) in February.

The campaign aims to promote road safety measures for all modes of transportation and to help change the behavior of motorists.

The Ligtas Lakbay campaign is based on the winning entry in the 9th Integrated Marketing Communications Students' Competition of the Data Foundation, Inc. which adopted the theme "Stop, Look, Listen: Road Safety Awareness Campaign" for its 2008 contest.

A group of advertising, communication and marketing students from De La Salle University-Manila won the first prize, with the slogan "Ligtas na paglalakbay, tabay ang buhay."

The DOTC partnered with Shine Foundation and adopted the campaign, which encompasses brief, ads and air travel.

Stickers, T-shirts, signage, car covers and other promotional materials have been disseminated nationwide. The campaign logo, already visible on expressways, highways and major roads, serves as a reminder to motorists, travelers and pedestrians.

As part of the campaign, the DOTC will conduct seminars for private and public utility vehicle drivers. It will be a refresher course on traffic rules and will seek to instill proper driving and discipline on the road.

"Because we can only do so much in terms of teaching, we are partnering with several private sectors," Lontoc said.

The effectiveness of the campaign has yet to be seen. Road accident data are alarming but by simply obeying traffic rules and driving responsibly, one can prevent another head from getting killed.

Accident-prone motorist not giving up bike

HUDSON MEDINA Headless

HUDSON MEDINA LEARNED to drive early and got his driver's license at 18. Since then, he has not stopped steering the wheel; in it the family-owned owner-type jeep. Top on fitness, he is recently acquired motorbike Kawasaki Fury 125.

Medina, 23, married with three kids and unemployed, has already figured in four road accidents in six years, all brought about by drunk driving at night. Two of his accidents went unreported.

In 2002, he was driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) with 10 passengers while cruising along Governor Mendoza, Cavite. His jeep crashed on a curb by an abaca road, causing it to glide and take a 90-degree turn toward a canal.

"Napuruhan ng (he suffered) one cut on his thumb, nasira (his) ilong (nose) at nagkapasa-pasa (bruises) ang katawan (body) ko," Medina said.

Broken

The jeep hit and damaged the water pipes. All passengers survived but Dan, suffering minor bruises and bumps in different parts of the body.

In 2003, he was driving alone along Buena Genes, Imus, Cavite, when he hit a 14-year-old man walking down the side street.

The victim and his two companions sustained up on seeing the wayward vehicle. The companions survived unscathed. Tipay Medina, scarred and in shock, drove away and never straight home. Policemen in neutral headquarters later.

"The label 'Bobby' (name of Medina's youngest sister) on just above the windshield of the vehicle made tracking me easy. I turned up to my mother's house and hid there," he said. He did not mean to hurt anybody," Medina said.

Stitches

He spent a day behind bars. The victim's family did not prosecute charges but demanded P60,000 as payment for damages, exclusive of the P16,000 spent for the victim's hospitalization, primarily stitches he received on his head.

His second accident in 2004 was triggered by drunkenness as well. He hit a parked jeepney on Tandang Sora, Imbang, Cavite. There were no casualties but the impact caused dents in the jeepney's fenders. The altercation that followed with the jeepney's owner was settled at the barangay level and no charges were filed. His insurance paid the driver P14,000 for the damage.

The owner-type jeep was eventually sold, probably to obscure any bad luck and spare the parents some anxiety. The family later bought a brand-new Toyota Innova.

Medina's last accident in 2008 took place under more complicated circumstances. Two intoxicated friends on a borrowed motorbike invited him for a midnight stunt in the town proper.

Drunk, no helmet

Medina, who had also eaten from a drinking spree, obliged and drove with his two pals on board—without a single helmet to boot.

The accident happened when he overtook a jeepney but failed to steer back to his left. This had rain caused them to alight ungracefully and make a bad fall. They lost consciousness upon hitting the ground. The motorbike's headlights and paint were damaged.

He drove back, all of them unwitted. Amid hiccups, cuts and bruises, Medina was fortunate to have had no fractures and broken limbs. A total of P7,000 was spent for the motorbike repair and maintenance sessions for all three of them. He has not repeated since.

Despite the scar on his face and the financial burden on his parents, he now chooses to drive the Fury. The senior refused to accept the damaged motorbike and was paid P15,000. The motorbiker, originally saved P50,000, was forced over to him including the payment as consolement basis, which he shouldn't to this day.

His mother Magdalena Medina said: "I (divorced) my mommy every time he goes out. He teaches for flying planes. I'm afraid he'll figure in another accident."

Hudson has no plans of giving up the motorbike but has vowed not to drink and drive, at least for now.

—Mary Ann Ayas

3 more travelers held but RP still flu-free, says DOH

By Dona Pazzibugan

WHILE JAPAN AND SOUTHKOREA were recently added to the list of Asian countries with confirmed swine flu cases, the Philippines has remained free of the dreaded influenza A(H1N1) virus, health authorities said yesterday.

But airport personnel remained on guard. Yesterday three more arriving passengers were brought to quarantine facilities, bringing to 20 the number of people checked for flu symptoms since the infection first hit the pandemic alert began on May 1.

Of the 20 passengers who entered the country with a fever or cough, 15 have been cleared of the virus, with only five of the most recent cases still awaiting laboratory results as of yesterday afternoon, health officials said.

"So far we have zero cases," said Health Undersecretary Mario Villaverde.

Villaverde said the three latest passengers to come under observation were a 60-year-old woman who arrived from Mexico, a 39-year-old pilot who arrived from Hong Kong, and a 10-year-old man who came from the United States.

The last patient had tested negative for the virus, according to Villaverde.

He said they were still awaiting the laboratory results for three other patients who arrived on Friday.

All persons suspected of having the flu virus were brought to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa; San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, and the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu.

Hong Kong and South Korea were the first two Asian countries to report confirmed cases of the new virus which first surfaced in Mexico.

As of yesterday, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 258 confirmed and two probable cases of A(H1N1) infection.

Mexico reported 1,364 laboratory-confirmed human cases of infection, including 45 deaths. The United States reported 1,639 confirmed cases, including two deaths. Canada reported 242 cases, including one death.

According to the WHO, the following countries reported laboratory-confirmed cases with no deaths: Argentina (one case), Australia (3), Austria (2), Brazil (6), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (3), Colombia (3), Costa Rica (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (12), Germany (21), Guatemala (1), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (8), Japan (1), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (5), Panama (2), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (2), Spain (66), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1), and the United Kingdom (34). With a report from Cynthia D. Rubio

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Palace: Leftists may have gotten to UN official

MALACAÑANG DEPUTIES TEODORO Ubalde Mariano special rapporteur Philip Alston's claim that the administration had failed to institutionalize the reforms needed to put a stop to extrajudicial killings, and suggested that Alston may have been influenced by leftist propaganda.

"That is unfair. Our government has done so many things," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said in an interview with anchorman Ruelyn Reyes.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to set up a P25-million fund to help solve the political killings was just the latest of the measures taken to address the issue.

In an April 20 follow-up to his 2008 report on the human rights situation in the country, Alston said the administration fell short of institutionalizing the reforms that he had recommended to stop the killings.

Chief among them, he said, were the failure to apply the principle of command responsibility to rights violations by state agents, poor protection for witnesses, and the lack of congressional oversight of the military and police.

In his 2008 report, Alston concluded that state security forces had killed leftist activists as part of a campaign against communist rebels.

Remonde also disputed Alston's claim that the President's order to the military to crush the communist insurgency by 2010 had been made an excuse to indiscriminately label political and civil society organizations as front of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"This has been the issue raised by front organizations which are thwarting the insurgency. As the saying goes, it is repeated a thousand times will assume the substance of truth," he said.

Remonde said he believed Alston's conclusion was largely influenced by the "propaganda" of left-leaning organizations, including human rights groups.

"The communist elements are good at the tactical and shield strategy. They will do everything to destroy the government, propagate false claims," he said, explaining that the communist insurgency was using rebels as the sword, and human rights groups as the shield.

Alston's claims were also vigorously denied by the military which maintained that it had not gone outside the law to meet the 2010 deadline for ending the communist insurgency.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. yesterday said the military did not resort to the violent use of force to carry out the Commander-in-Chief's orders.

"There is no truth to that. The mission to finish the insurgency by 2010 is being achieved through legal ways or through means that are within the bounds of the law," he said. TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa and Jerry Esplanada

RP far from 'best place in world' for moms, survey finds

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT THE "BEST place in the world for mothers."

According to a report by the United States-based nonprofit group, Save the Children Inc., the Philippines ranked 92 out of 75 "less developed" countries in its annual survey on the State of the World's Mothers. The country slipped four notches from No. 88 in the same survey last year.

In pointing this out yesterday, Inc. Fr. Cayetano called on the government to do more to address the country's "mediocre" ranking in the 13th annual State of the World's Mothers 2009 Report.

"Despite great advances in medical science, 19-11 mothers in the Philippines still die from childbirth-complications every day," said Cayetano, a month or of two. The national rate of 162 deaths per 1,000 live births is one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Asia.

"At least 10 Filipino mothers are therefore expected to die of birth-related complications this Sunday, May 10, when the entire world observes Mother's Day," Cayetano said.

Coinciding with the mark the global celebration of Mother's Day, the report factored in key indicators relating to health, education and socioeconomic status in each country to rank the "best place for mothers" in the world.

Cayetano is chair of the Senate committee on social justice and president of the Coalition of Women Parliamentarians of the Philippines Advisory Board.

"We are reorganizing instead of advocating with respect to these goals. There are still marks on Mother's Day that should more come than the usual lip service from our government, headed as it is by a woman president who is supposed to be the mother of the entire nation," she said.

Covering 134 nations, the survey came out with rankings for the More Developed (Tier 1), less Developed (Tier 2), and Least Developed countries (Tier 3) based on how each country stands for access to the Mothers' Index.

The Mothers' Index is calculated as the weighted average of children's well-being (30 percent), women's health status (30 percent), women's educational status (20 percent), and women's economic status (20 percent), and women's political status (10 percent).

Sweden, Norway and Australia were the top three countries in Tier 1; Cuba, Israel and Argentina in Tier 2; while Maldives, Cape Verde and Uganda in Tier 3.

Michael Lim Ubac

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 10, 2009
5th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He recounted to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had fearlessly preached in the name of Jesus.

Then Saul began to live with them. He moved about freely in Jerusalem and preached openly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke to the Hellenists and argued with them, but they were out to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Meanwhile, the Church had peace. It was building up throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria with ears turned to the Lord and filled with comfort from the Holy Spirit.

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24

My dear children, let us love not only with words and with our lips, but in truth and in deed.

Then we shall know that we are of the truth and we may also our conscience in his presence. Every time it reproaches us, let us say: God is greater than our conscience, and he knows everything.

When our conscience does not reproach us, dear friends, we may have complete confidence in God. Then whatever we ask we shall receive, since we keep his commandment and do what pleases him.

His commandment is that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commandments remains in God and God in him. It is by the Spirit God has given us that we know he lives in us.

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower. Every one of my branches doesn't bear fruit, he breaks it off, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, that it may bear more fruit still.

"You are already made clean by the word I have spoken to you. Live in me as I live in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself but has to remain part of the vine; so neither can you if you don't remain in me.

"I am the vine and you are the branches. As long as you remain in me and I in you, you bear much fruit, but apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not remain in me is thrown away as they do with branches and they wither. They then are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned.

"If you remain in me and my words in you, you may ask whatever you want and it will be given to you. My Father is glorified when you bear much fruit; it is then that you become my disciples."

Commentary:

The Lord Jesus comes to that we might have life and have it to the full. He draws us into a relationship with him that is like a life-giving vine and the branches, for when we are connected to Jesus through the sacraments of the Church we experience blessings beyond measure. We find in this relationship comfort in distress, safety in times of trouble and solace in moments of woe. In, we do not experience the joy of knowing in his name the good fruit of stewardship and evangelization, to say nothing a positive difference in the world and leading others closer to the Kingdom.

May we always be grateful for this close connection with the Lord Jesus, made possible only through his saving death and glorious resurrection. In this all we have life. Through Him do we have the hope of eternal life. With Him as our Savior even the joy and peace that this world cannot give.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Sandigyal
Assoc. Dir. Nico A. Rivenaba

Killing sows fear among 'lumad' villagers

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

AFTER THE CHEERS and laughter came the hums of gunfire.

The day of terror on April 19 started, sending "lumad" (indigenous people), many of them children and elderly, back into their shanties. No one dared to peek through cracks on the walls, afraid that the armed men still spray bullets at them.

It was already enough that they witnessed how the son of their datu was killed.

Sta. Maymbo residents of Sitio Mintangnad, Barangay Datu Ot, Talaingod town in Davao del Norte were narrating their ordeal that day when at least 20 men, who they said were members the Army's 60th Infantry Division, arrived. They had been used to seeing them pass by while going about their usual ways until the "visitors" entered Kapis Road.

The dragging morning coffee conversations unexpectedly turned into cries for mercy.

Military denial

"They suspected him of being a New Peoples Army (NPA) cadre because he had a small gun in his hand. They said he was among those who ambushed the soldiers a day before. My son was not a member of the NPA and never did he do anything that could anger the soldiers. That's why I could not understand why they had to kill him," Datu Sobawal Bato said through an interpreter.

But the military said no atrocity happened.

"The Talaingod incident is not true. This is based on the investigation conducted by the 3rd Special Forces Battalion," read a text message from the Army's 10th Infantry Division information office.

Ordi said her brother had cursed himself while making a slingshot, but the armed men insisted that he was involved in an ambush on April 13 in nearby Sitio Dunagan where two soldiers died.

One of them, Ordi said, twisted the fingers of Kapis to bird that the latter cramped. Another took the butt of Kapis and struck it through his right thigh.

"As if not contented, the soldier pulled the weapon (bolo) sideways, back and forth, causing the wound to increase in length to about 10 inches ...," Datu Sobawal said in his native expression.

The killers, he said, grabbed his bleeding son and pushed him as he limped toward a coconut tree. Kapis, he said, was "made to embrace the tree and another soldier shot him in the back."

There, they lived their gone.

Demand for justice

"He was butchered like a pig. We are here because we are demanding for justice. We are asking for help from the government to give justice to our son," the tribal leader said.

"Hindi ang bilugang (there was no rounding) as alleged," the military's text message read.

MANDAYA peasant leader Lendinda "Nang Dot" Monsot continues to speak out against government policies that, according to him, aggravate poverty. CHRISTIAN CHO

It said Lt. Col. Reuben Ongata, head of the 3rd IB, had talked with the "lumad" to confirm the security and they also denied that someone among them was murdered or killed.

"All are live and fabricated by the militant groups," it added.

Datu Sobawan described his son as his "kinalipan" (student) in gathering food and in farming as "I can already too old to work."

"The soldiers have to offer me and my people an acceptable answer as why did they kill my son," he said. He adds, he said, had been thinking of committing suicide because of what he did Kapis.

When the armed men left, they were met the "lumad" leaders 37,000. He got the money from selling his carabao.

The people of Sitiamad refuse to go home for fear. They now live with relatives in other villages.

Formal complaint

Lt. Col. Rolando Bautista, spokesperson of the 10th ID, said they despite the results of its own investigation, the military was still willing to cooperate with investigating bodies once a formal complaint is filed in court.

"All they have to do is file a formal complaint in the court or with the Commission on Human Rights, and rest assured that we will not turn our backs on ... these investigations," Bautista said in a telephone interview.

Datu Sobawan has already filed a complaint with the CHR, which was supported by the Pasaka Confederation of Lumad in Southern Mindanao and the militant human rights group Karapatan.

Ruby Delgado, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Mindanao, said that the killings of "lumad" leaders and their people had become very alarming.

He noted the case of Leodicio "Manong Dot" Monsot, a Mandaya and chair of the Kigbalitan Sug Mag-uuma sa Boston United Peasants of Boston), who was shot and killed by two unidentified men on April 28 in Boston, Davao Oriental. Monsot was vocal against mining and logging in his town and the presence of the military in communities.

Bautista said "it is on best to wait to rank the truth and find out the real culprits so that we can clear the name of the organization from the accusations of some individuals who maliciously link us to the crime even without any solid basis or evidence."

'He was butchered like a pig. We are here because we are demanding for justice...'

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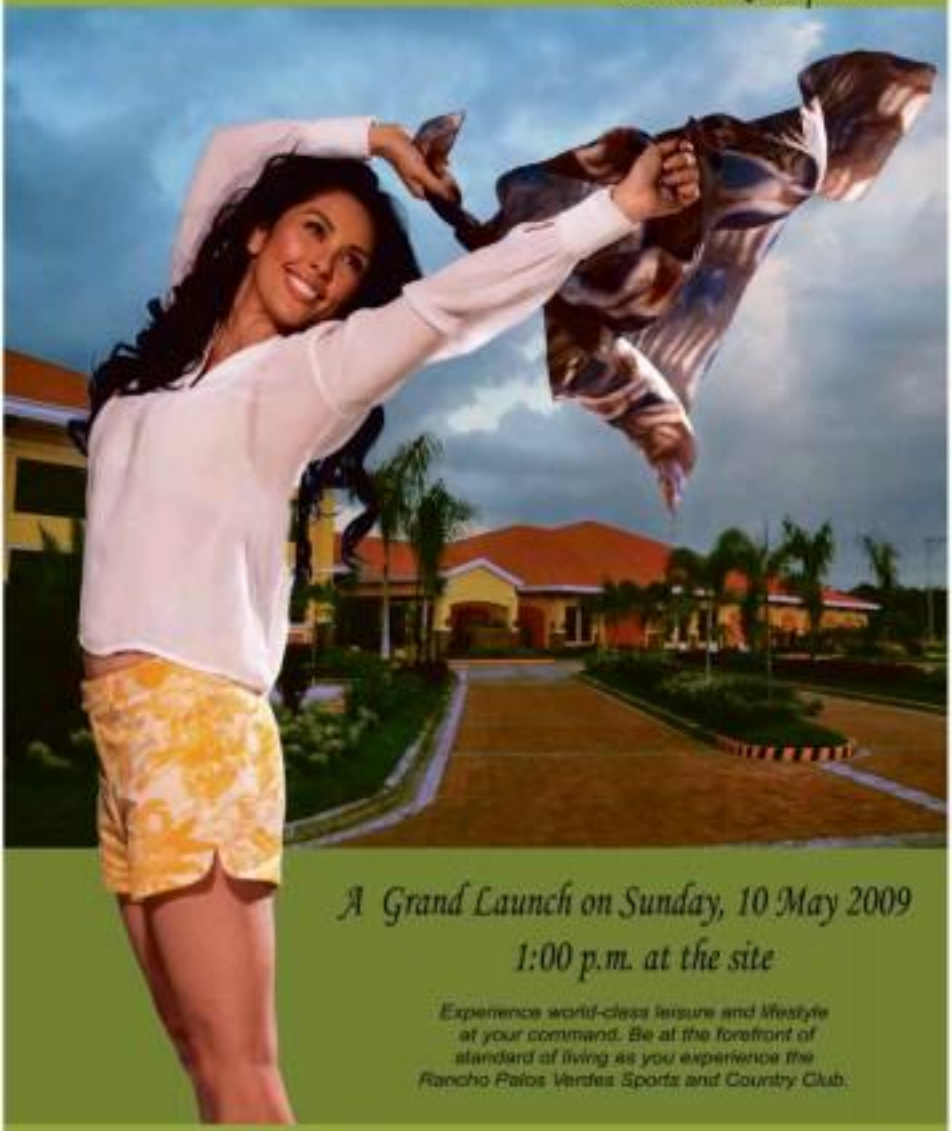

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Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

Same faces for 2010, says Among Ed

By Nestor P Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—SAYING THE CURRENT CROP OF presidential aspirants offer no real alternative for the people, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio yesterday said he is firming up his plans to run for a national position, including for president or vice president, in next year's elections.

"We tell people to vote wisely, but how can we vote wisely if there are no choices?" Panlilio said in a speech at the 22nd Mid-Biennial Conference of the Nonpartisan Individualists of the Philippines Region Six, here.

In an interview, Panlilio said while there were "real alternatives" emerging in local elections, there was no clear alternative for national elections, particularly for president and vice president.

"Many people feel that the faces they see are the ones responsible for the state of the Philippines," the governor told the Inquirer.

"But it only despite his performance to return to priesthood, he is firming up plans to run[ning] for an involvement in politics, Panlilio said.

"How likely I will run for a national position—president or vice president," said Panlilio.

But he said he is still in the process of discussions and meetings with supporters and friends.

He said while he made a promise that he will only serve for a term of three years as governor then return to priesthood, he is also considering the "clamor of many people" for him to continue serving as governor post.

"I'm not running any fault on priesthood. But I have to be ready to sacrifice anything and everything for the sake of our beloved land," he said.

Panlilio was suspended from performing priestly duties when he ran for governor in 2007. He defeated two administration candidates in a close contest.

Church officials, including Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), have earlier called on Panlilio to leave the priesthood if he intends to run for President in next year's elections.

Lagdameo had said that Panlilio should leave priesthood to maintain the Church's non-involvement in partisan politics.

But Lagdameo also had said that Panlilio's openness to seek higher office "sends a message about the country's political situation that we badly need in addition politically the assay to asset of grace and competence in governance."

Gov't eyes pollution tax to keep water running

BAGUIO CITY—GOVERNMENT could have always been blamed for the deterioration of forests in Cordillera.

But the Department of Public Works and Highways has forwarded new technology that uses "debonding" debris to stabilize the mountain walls and prevent siltation from polluting rivers.

The technology, which could be handcrafted by a pregnant watershed tax, has been outlined as part of a Cordillera forest rescue plan, which would be discussed in a May 26 North Luzon water executives and environmental summit.

Climate change experts and government planners from the Cordillera, the Ilocos and the Cagayan regions agreed on Wednesday to stage the summit, which had been postponed since 2008.

Good rains

The rains lowering the summer months of April and May have proven to be providential, said Undersecretary Hermogenes Dariños, executive director of the Office of the Northern Luzon Growth Quadrangle.

He said the erratic weather has been attributed to global warming, and it could have serious impact on dramatic watersheds, as well as the food grown by farms that are irrigated by rivers harnessed by these watersheds.

Extending the life span of the forests beyond 20 years if it could "or else we will have no water to farm for the future Filipinos," he said.

The summit was initially collected from the discussions of a watershed list, which would be imposed on local governments to enable the Cordillera to finance forest rehabilitation.

Pollution tax

Both a pollution control tax or a users' tax could prove useful, if it could be harnessed for new technology, Dariños said.

David Barbiyet, Cordillera chief of the DPWH planning and design unit, said the agency has been using road materials that could act as "retaining devices" and about up eroding mountain walls.

The materials detachable and then hardens quickly when touched by rainwater, so they could act as "bonding materials" for the watersheds, Barbiyet said.

Sir Florencia Reyes-Inquiano, head of the summit's secretariat, and policy unit of the Conservation International Philippines, said the local users of the Cordillera mountains. 1.4 million hectares, more than 81 percent of its total land area [1.6 million hectares].

Critical state

"All of the forest reservations are now in a critical state," Inquiano said in the book, "Upper Ifni Basin Land Is Like."

Payments for watershed and environmental services or penalties by watershed managers over contributed to the environment, agency reform and irrigation agencies of the Cordillera in their 2008 recommendations. Vincent Cabreza Inquirer Northern Luzon

IFUGAO MOMENT
A woman and her child spend time at the entrance to their home in Barangay Maganan Hungduan, Ifugao. A farming village that borders known the boundary of urban centers.

Fear of H1N1 virus spreads in Mindanao, hurts sale of pork

DAVAO CITY—PORK SALES continue to dip here and in other parts of Mindanao as consumers are increasingly becoming worried about the virus that causes swine flu, reports from as P1.00.

Evangeline Limit, a meat vendor at the Bankerohan public market, said she already lowered prices from P145 to P120 per kilogram but consumers are simply not buying.

"It's really difficult for me to sell pork now! Three days," she said.

Limit said due to the slump in sales, vendors have an edge to increase but to process fresh meat into milder sausages or tocino, which requires added cost, to avoid losses.

Carolina Barasco, another vendor, also talked of a similar experience.

Barasco said she has learned to be aware.

"My next day volume of meat has to depend on the volume that I can sell for today," she said.

In Kidapawan City, sales of pork and pork products dipped by 50 percent, according to Bebot Manuel, who heads the meat vendors' association there.

Daily radio reports on the swine flu contributed to the fear of consumer, he said.

Manuel did not specify the volume of pork being sold at the city's public market but he added that prior to the swine flu scare, pork products were already completely sold out by noon time.

"We will be able to recover this slump," North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Pinol, whose family also runs a pig farm, said.

In Columbio City, Dexie Tandiong, president of the Columbio Grocers Association, said consumers are not only shying away from fresh pork but from canned pork products as well.

"Many of our pork-eating customers are on a wait-and-see attitude while the fear is over a still high," Tan Ming said.

In Tupay City, the devastating sales of pork in the markets have also been big league.

Romanido Grigoire said previously, his company dropped about 200 pigs per day to other parts of the country.

"Now it's down to 120/head," he said.

Grigoire said the hog industry, though by 10 percent in last two weeks, after the swine flu outbreak was reported in Mexico City.

"Because people believed that the virus can be contracted from eating pork," he said.

The swine flu scare had hurt the province's economy, too.

Elsie Hontiveros, a corn retailer here, said formerly buyers, mostly backyard pig raisers, had stopped from buying, and already sold their animals due to fear of swine flu.

"They told us that they were afraid to buy our corn, swine animals because they are scared," she said. Dennis Inocian, Orlando Elmey and Charyle Sebano, Inquirer Mindanao

'Daily radio reports on the swine flu contributed to the fear of consumer...'

'Kingmaker' changes Palawan's political landscape

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—IT'S hard to miss the imposing newly built prison bungar right beside the new provincial building currently undergoing a major makeover into an international airport. Its grand entrance is the go-to landing a new ubiquitous brand, in bold print, JOJO Binay (JBN).

Since Jose "Pepito" Chavez Alvarez bought into the local limelight in December with reports that he's eying for the vice-governorship seat of Princesa next year, he has single-handedly reconfigured the province's dwindling political landscape, assembling a (not) one supposed group populated mainly by incumbent local officials and youth recruits.

While the erstwhile low-profile businessman framed the thrust to discuss his political plans, some of his key supporters can't be more categorical.

His younger brother, 1st District Rep. Antonio Alvarez, took the occasion of his birthday last week to publicly appeal for support to his elder brother's gubernatorial bid.

Leonelo Alvarez, a popular board member from northern Palawan, confirmed in an interview that he had already secured Alvarez's commitment to be his running-mate next year.

Alvarez is known to have supported Bartolo Sportista Pacaldo Mitra throughout his political career that ended with Mitra's failed presidential bid in 1992.

"He was and still is a big-name land asset he wants to become king," local political observer Dante Dalubaan said.

In an earlier interview, Alvarez declined to confirm the reports about his gubernatorial plans.

"It's an open-ended question but right now I'm not interested. This is just a feel good thing for me. I have just a few more years remaining in my life and I want to give back something to Palawan," he said.

Following his public debut in December last year, Alvarez and newly organized JOJO Foundation Inc. undertook a years-lingering medical mission that has so far claimed to have treated at least 80,000 indigent patients.

The foundation said at the end of the program, it intends to reach at least 300,000 patients.

In the capital, absent built-a-new hospital facility is accommodate more people seeking free medical help.

A group of Spanish surgeons, including some of his personal doctors found in the United States, spearheads the medical mission that brought in two state-of-the-art mobile operating theaters.

Last month, he donated a separate unit to the city government, costing at least P9 million.

Dr. Gerry Ortega, a close Alvarez associate, describes Alvarez as an "enlightened" individual who had realized he needed to leave a legacy.

"He's 64 years old and realizes he's not going to be around for too long. He's good and now able, he wanted to leave a good legacy of having shared his blessings to the poor," he said.

Rodrigo O. Avila Inquirer Southern Luzon

COMBAT. Palawan is a perfect destination for those tourists who plan a game of tug-of-war, like Palawan's politicians do for control of the province.

SMART

CONGRATULATIONS

"The greatest fighter ever"

Bob Arum
Boxing Promoter

Manny Pacquiao is a roaring visit to PLDT-SMART Chairman Manuel Pangilinan, receives a donation for the Emmanuel D. Pacquiao Foundation. Mr. Pangilinan, a staunch advocate of sports, is also President of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP). The support given by Pacquiao's foundation signifies Smart's pledge to the development and training of the country's upcoming amateur boxers.

"In many respects, sports is a strong metaphor for life. Sports is about excellence, about setting goals, about winning – but winning the right way."

Manny V. Pangilinan
PLDT-Smart Chairman

"I'm very very happy and very proud to[f having Pacquiao as WBC Champ ...Manny has demonstrated that he is the very best in the world."

Jose Sulaiman
WBC President

Manny Pacquiao was dominating. Ricky Hatton was left helpless.

NY Times

Pound for pound, Manny Pacquiao is the best boxer in the world. But even more important than holding that distinction, Manny has connected with the people of his home country, the Philippines, to the point where he's almost like a god.

Time Magazine

Pacquiao proves ring greatness

BBC NEWS

He's not just winning fights; the way he destroys his opponents, who batter viewers as well.

The Ring Magazine

"Pound for pound, Manny Pacquiao is the best boxer in the world"

Lennox Lewis
Boxing Commentator, HBO Sports

"At tournament you always hope to get a chip[ionship] who will win a world title. Today, I have signed a 'platinum chip' world class champion whose passion transcends sports and epitomizes hope, fortitude and optimism for Filipinos in The Philippines"

Gary Shaw
Boxing Promoter

"If ever his speed, it was all his speed ... I could see the punches coming but he was just too fast."

David Diaz
Boxer

The greatest fighter that has ever lived

Philippine Daily Inquirer

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'Mama, this I like'

Radio icon Jo San Diego shares a Mother's Day story with her mom, the late Judge Lourdes Paredes San Diego, as the star

JO AT HER RADIO BOOTH: "When you read this, a mother will always be there. And that makes both ways." YOY SORIANO

By Nicci Barrios
Contributor

IF WE WANT TO HONOR our mom in a grand way, we'd show—not just tell her—how much we love and respect her. It would be gratifying if people knew what a great person she is, or remembered her long after she has died.

There is one outdoor tribute achievements are part of contemporary history so much so that she has a street named after her. The younger generation would probably not know why this honor was bestowed on Justice Lourdes Paredes San Diego. So the author asked her daughter, radio icon Jo San Diego, to share some insights about her late mom.

First off, Jo points out that about eight years ago, the Quezon City government honored her mother's memory by renaming Mali Avenue (east Kamias Street) in Cubao, Quezon City, to Justice Lourdes Paredes San Diego Avenue. It's a long street. Jo says, that means Nina used "wisdo up who knows where." The street sign, she adds, is longer than the one in Chinatown marked Quintin Paredes Street. (Quintin Paredes of Abra, Jo's grandfather, served the country as Solicitor General, Secretary of Justice, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Senate President.)

Tough decisions

Justice San Diego was the first woman presiding justice of the Court of Appeals. Prior to this, she was the CA associate justice (1976-1985). She published books and papers on partnership, corporations, comparative study of inheritance laws affecting women, issues of women under the Philippine family laws, and issues of women in Asia.

The Filipino public came to know Justice San Diego because of her tough decisions on several prominent court cases.

In 1983, senator Joseph Estrada and Fernando Poe Jr. accused the "Big 4" crime syndicate of swindling money from movie stars, threatening to destroy their careers by disfiguring their faces if they did not pay up.

According to news reports, Estrada and Poe holed up in a safe house stockpiled with ammunition, ready to fight the syndicate. Entrails even made out his last will and testament, copies of which he gave to key public officials and to President Ferdinand Marcos—just in case daughter Gloria would use the power the two actors' political network).

The alleged syndicate leader was Luis "Baby" Antonio, a member of a powerful political family in Cabuyao City. Influential forces were at play but San Diego stood by the law and sent the syndicate members to jail.

In 1987, actress Maggie de la Riva bravely pursued a case against her captain Jaime Jose, Marilo Pineda, Edgardo Aquino and Rogelio Canal. San Diego meted out the death penalty. Canal died in prison; the three others died in the electric chair. Their execution in 1992 was given full TV coverage.

Jo says her mom never be-

MAYA | A32

A FAMILY PHOTO shows the late Judge Lourdes San Diego with children (from left) Victoria, Jo, Pedro Jr., Quintin and Teresita. Two other brothers, Pedrito and Ignacio, were born later.

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NBI files estafa raps vs teacher over fake investment scheme

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION filed charges on Friday against a public school teacher who allegedly bested several people, including fellow teachers, into a fraudulent investment scheme.

Charged with syndicated estafa in the Manila prosecutor's office was Marites Francisco, a teacher at Malabon National High School and resident of Concepcion, Malabon City.

Francisco was arrested by NBI agents in an entrapment operation and is detained at the bureau jail.

Angelito Magno, NBI Special Action Unit chief, said that sometime in 2005, Francisco convinced the complainants to join an investment scheme that involved the selling of UM gift certificates.

Francisco allegedly claimed she was connected with 3M as a sales agent. She promised the complainants a 50-percent monthly profit on their investment payable every 15th and 30th of the month, the NBI said.

3M management, meanwhile, has issued a statement saying Francisco was not in any way connected with them in their affiliates.

One of the complainants, Reynaldo Carreon, also a teacher, told the NBI that from December 2003 to April 2007, the investors received their money from the suspect.

But starting in May 2007, he said Francisco failed to pay them, saying she had no more money to give.

In November 2007, the suspect reportedly took a leave of absence from her teaching job and has not reported back since.

Carreon said he and about 12 other complainants borrowed amounts ranging from P5,000 to P1 million.

The NBI said they expected more victims to surface.

Carreon said the victims sought NBI assistance after Francisco failed to return their investments despite repeated demands.

Last month, the suspect contacted Carreon and the other complainants again offering them another investment opportunity. This gave the NBI a chance to set up an entrapment operation.

Francisco was arrested as soon as she received the marked money from the complainants.

'Mama, this I like'

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lived in the death penalty for whom she asked the Justice why she missed it out to done, or at, she replied: "Hija, in Philippine law, rape is punishable by death."

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Love for music

Not many know that the tough lady Justice had a romantic side. She has to her in music: another cornfield, with bosses. She earned a bachelor's degree in music, major in piano, from St. Theresa's College.

Music and the law mould influence the relationship of mother and daughter. It's love for the music would give her an enduring cover in radio that made her mother proud.

"Mama was disappointed when I didn't go into law," recalls Jo. "She tried to nurse me in that direction but finally relented when I told her I was afraid of drowning the family if I didn't at least equal the grades that she had earned at 'JD.' Until the day she died she stayed convinced I would have made a great lawyer."

As is proud of her mother's achievements. Unfortunately, she says, "I was many almost the whole time she was making a name for herself. I never even saw the inside of her courtroom. And you know what gave her a big thrill? When somebody asked her, Are you the mother of Jo Sato Ongpi? And she told everybody about it ... I mean, how great is that?!"

Crying in LA

Years later, when the businessman Jo had some tough times making a career in radio and TV in the US, her mother hosted her nagging spirits. "Mama was there for me when I called her from KCLA Channel 5 in Los Angeles when a position I—and everybody else—was sure I had in my hand pocket was given to someone from the mail room! The news director his Lupton sure me crying in the ladies' room and suggested I call my mother. I did. And she would started looking better."

In this city Jo cherishes what her mom told her when she made that phone call from Los Angeles. "I told her she, at least, knew why God had put her in the earth. What about me? She really thought about that and then she said, 'Hija, God gave you the talent in living joy to your listeners. You may not know who they are, but you know they are there. So continue to do what you do. And remember that if you're going to do anything anyway, do it the best way possible. Not the best way you know how, but the best way possible. And always remember, you have the talent—Use it.' So I keep trying."

'This I Like!'

And, it seems, even when the bad passed away, San Diego opened the way for her daughter to start the second chapter of her career. Jo had come home from the US, where she had been a long three months, to be with her mom in the latter's declining years. So she was present at the ceremonies that honored her mother with the renaming of Main Avenue Radio legend Eddie Ilarde was among the guests. Jo recalls, "That is where Eddie Ilarde collared me and talked me into staying to go on the air with other radio talents talents he called 'Golden Voices.'"

That encounter paved the way for Jo's eclectic voice to be heard once again on Philippine radio. Her program "This I Like" airs every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. on dzRH 104.5 FM, with a global reach via www.rhs.gov.ph.

These days, Jo San Diego is very much involved in her own reading advocacy. It all started when she

'Someone suggested I call my mom. I did. And the world started looking better'

JO'S JOYOUS to young people today. Be there for your mom especially during rough times.

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Mid-year bonus for QC workers

By Julie M. Aurelio

GOOD NEWS FOR Quezon City Hall employees needing extra cash in time for the resumption of classes in June.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has ordered the release of the midyear bonus for the city workers this month.

In a memorandum, Belmonte directed the grant of the benefit to be paid to all regular city government employees.

The bonus is equivalent to half a month's salary and half of the P5,000 cash gift for government workers.

Belmonte said he ordered the release so that employees can have spending money for their children's tuition and other expenses in time for the opening of classes in June.

Part-time workers can still receive the bonus and the P5,000 cash gift, but on a pro-rated basis, the directive said.

"[W]E MUST PUT AN END TO [OUR] dependence on [PHP remittances]. The social costs are too high. We must look to new employment generation strategies."
—GLO MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, May 2000

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

NEED HELP?

OFWs and OFW kin in trouble anytime, anywhere in the world, send a text message to 0921.6401.612. The Center for Migrant Advocacy and its partners abroad, in cooperation with DFA, will respond to the SOS.

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

It was a long night's journey from Tanauan to New Jersey

By Sylvia Bumpus-Pinca
Contributor

NEW YORK—PRIMI TANAUAN and Talinay to Hanagan to Jersey City to New Jersey. That is how Victorino Natividad's life's journey took and it took him a whole lifetime to find his soul's haven.

His life story is worth writing about, he says. "It can be made into a blockbuster movie."

The 72-year-old lives in a relatively large compartmentalized house in Jersey City which he singlehandedly designed. It was once a dirty, dilapidated house he only initially rejected, but its rehabilitated it with his skills as a handyman and made it into his personal work of art.

The house is now a strong symbol and reflection of himself: it was reused and battered but who contributed life's challenges and came out a winner each time.

Laurel curse

His life story begins in the interesting town of Tanauan, birthplace of handsome, illustrious and powerful Lazaros. A baloon with one of the Laurel boys, reports have it, gave his grandmother a scar and a daughter.

His grandmother was two when she first met and so gave her son her maiden name unless he was born. The son was Vic's father who, like him, was chunky eyed.

Not her second child, a daughter, she married a prosperous land dealer and moved to Manila.

Vic's father transferred his family to the neighboring Talinay town in later years. He saw his eyes on the United States.

As a young man, Vic first worked in the office of Jesus Francisco Lavides of the San Pedro Chamber when the mayor was 20 years. So took up law but dropped the law when he got wealthy sick. He had no earning gas going for years. While having sandwiches to ease his pains, he met Elisa Soth, a young pharmacist, who would become his girlfriend.

THE NATIVIDAD FAMILY Living in different parts of the world, Vic and his wife Elizabeth (center) and their children, from left, Vlad, Jane, Sarah and Beulah come together during a holiday in New Jersey.

In 1961, he flew to California and did odd jobs to survive. While there, he met a Filipino-American couple who took him in as a kind son. They helped him find more decent jobs and get his stomach troubles healed.

"When his benefactors' visa was about to expire, they suggested that he married their teacher-daughter. His quest is a serious thought, but he intervened. He recruited a letter from his girlfriend, Elizabeth, saying she was gravely ill and she wished to see him before dying.

Tricked to come home

Vic pushed his bags and let go of his American dream. But not having enough resources to take a plane ticket he took the longer ship ride to Manila. He was met at the pier by Elizabeth who surprisingly looked hale and hearty. Elizabeth, he mindlessly cricked him into coming back. But Vic did not get mad and instead decided to marry her. Elizabeth probably sensed she would lose Vic to someone if she did not summon him back home, he says.

Vic soon enlisted and started his ship bound for Japan. One day while repairing a misguided engine piston, he fell from a height of 15 feet with his head landing in a drum filled with carbon dioxide. He was free from major accident and, victims, the first miracle of survival.

While working with this ship, his children started coming one after the other. He soon had a family of five to support. He decided to move on to a higher paying job.

At sea

Vic then joined a Greek ship which promised him high wages. There were many Filipinos seafarers on board.

The ship owner-boss was a Mafia guy, he says. The man registered his base ship in different countries and made it appear he had many ships of the same kind. Using the many registration certificates, the man hoarded huge insurance premiums and disappeared without paying the wages of officers and crew of the ship.

One time, Vic persuaded the captain of the ship in commit a special power of attorney allowing him to sell the ship through public auction in Cairo Egypt.

Vic recalls that a lot of people cast mean eyes on the ship. He met with some ship agents and the one he chose agreed to advance money for the plane fares of 20 officers and crewmen who all returned to the Philippines in 1973.

Vic became a seaman-turned-a-public or years left with him. They were anchored in Los Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain and anchorage fees were growing each day. Out of stress, hunger, boredom and weariness, Vic wrangled the ship agent to fill the ship's tanks and they were set to escape but were caught by the Spanish Coast Guard. He was chained and imprisoned and was released only after he agreed to sign the necessary documents.

At the end of his rope

"I knew I would never make money on the ship and so in the dark of night we sold the ropes holding the ship as we could raise some money to get us home," he recalls.

The American dream again crossed his mind. He went to the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard and there, he found out that Filipino professionals and degree holders can apply to US immigrants. In no time, he sailed again.

On his third ship, another accident again happened.

"I was operating a crane when its steel hook which weighs about 30 tons swayed and hit the right side of my face," he says. "Luckily, I had a stainless wristy hat that covered part of my face and the covered part was where I was hit. I fell and lost consciousness. When it came back, I felt my face and felt relieved that I did not lose a second." It was another great miracle of survival.

At last, a US visa

When he went back home again, Vic worked briefly as a ship chandler in a company that supplied provisions to foreign ships. But he was not happy with his earnings. So then never into partnership in several operations. He worked hard and he sometimes that would not initially work, that when things got rough and profits were pressing in, he spent every did everything to ease himself.

"They expressed me as the military saying I was a member of the New People's Army," he recalls.

"When that did not work, they told that NPA that I was a military spy. That did not work, either. Then they went to my wife and told her the false claim that I had a mistress and an illegitimate child. I got tired of these machinations and so I asked them to buy me out."

It was at this time that Vic and his family's American visa was approved.

But there was one major problem. His daughter, who was going to just three, was more running 21 and each would invalidate her visa if she turned a year older in the Philippines or in the plane. "I had to arrange things fast even to the extent of bribing some people to have my daughter's booking date ahead of time," he says. She made it to the US on the day of her 21st birthday.

At home, finally

Today, they live in this large compartmentalized house in New Jersey. He owns out their house's basement, the first floor and the attic is now Filipino immigrants.

He and his wife, who has survived a breast cancer operation, stay in the spacious second floor with a balcony that looks out to the downscape of New Jersey. Inside, a visitor finds lots of photos of his children and grandchildren as well as copies of Noynoy's and Mar Roxas' campaign paraphernalia.

He works with the school of disadvantaged children in the New Jersey City University Working with special children brings out the prime and gentleness in him, he says.

Looking back, Vic says life has been good to him.

EARLY YEARS IN THE US The Natividads, daughter Jane, son Vlad, Vic and wife Elizabeth, have to shower his grave in the early 1970s.

LOST LAUREL The young Vic Natividad takes a break from sea. He was told in his teens that his father was supposedly a scion of the great Laurel clan of Batangas but never got anything from it, aside his father's career ambition, because she married the Laurel scion, reportedly after her family—one of the wealthiest and most influential supporters of him. He eventually managed to make it on his own.

Adoptive mothers face harsh reality

SHIRLEY WAS 19 YEARS old when she migrated to the United States through the petition of her adoptive parent. When she turned 21, her adoptive mother passed away. Shirley is single and has no children of her own. At first, the thought of performing for her biological mother. Unfortunately, she was told that she could not petition her biological mother because the parental relationship was terminated at the time she was adopted by her US citizen adoptive parent.

Shirley, now a US citizen and gainfully employed, decided instead to adopt the two minor children of her brother. She went through the usual adoption process however.

But the US Citizenship and Immigration Services denied the petition.

An adopted child is treated as such for immigration purposes if: (1) the child was adopted while under the age of 16 and (2) the child has been in the legal custody of, and has resided with the adopting parent(s) for at least two years.

It is irrelevant whether the legal custody and residence take place before or after the adoption.

Proving physical custody

Legal custody for two years requires either final adoption decree from the court or any official document in the form of a custody issued by a court or recognized governmental entity.

Shirley should prove that she has adopted the children when both adopted the children when under 16 and that she has had legal and physical custody of the children for two years.

Unlike in orphan adoptions, physical custody of the adopted child is required for relative adoption. The two years legal custody and residence must take place either before or after adoption.

The adoptive parent is required to live with the adopted child for at least two years. It is not enough that they live with the adopted child. It must also be proven that the exercises custody evidence of parental control, especially if the adopted child lives in the same household as the biological parent.

Even though the law does not require the adoptive parent to show a valid two-year physical presence outside ownership of property when the child remains, provision of financial support and day-to-day care, assumption of responsibility for important decisions in the child's life and physical living arrangements.

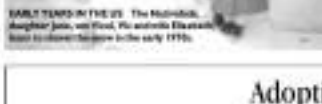
IMFO
Lourdes Jasmin Tancinco

Realities of compliance

Filipinos are known to have close family ties and extended families. This must be taken into account in describing the relationship between the parent and the adopted child. Until the child matures with the adoptive parent, the child usually lives with the biological parent or with relatives.

The standard of proving that the adopting parent has primary control over the adopted child is that household is mostly high. Attending to the specific requirement of primary control has always been really challenging.

No matter what the form for



conversion is for the adoptive mothers, the two-year physical requirement remains a bar for them to petition their adopted children successfully.

There are many adoptive mothers who find themselves in the same predicament. The desire to give adopted children a better future in the US remains a dream. The current economic crisis has affected almost all sectors of society, including the many mothers who want their adopted children. Not only are the businesses, the homeowners or families affected. There are also thousands of mothers who are separated from their children, not just because of the lengthy process of petitioning relatives, but also of their inability to meet the two-year requirement.

Despite the many challenges, adoptive parents, especially the mothers, are determined to live with their adopted children. Their responsibility towards their adopted children is not imposed on them but as a unanimous decision from their heart to extend love and care to them.

For this, we commend all adoptive mothers for all the many sacrifices they endure just to be with their children. The good we do to those who played the roles of mothers, including single mothers, father mothers, straight moms, gay moms, who have children.

To all the mothers who have exhibited unselfish love towards their children, we honor you for all that you do and we admire your dedication to improve your children's lives.

Happy Mother's Day!

Lourdes may be reached at lan@tancinco.com or at (02) 887 7177

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

Afghan leader demands end to US air strikes

WASHINGTON—AFGHAN PRESIDENT HAMID Karzai has demanded an end to US air strikes, which he said killed as many as 130 civilians earlier in the week and were infuriating the public.

As US and Afghan investigators prepared to release findings into the bloodshed, Karzai categorically rejected US military suggestions that Taliban insurgents rather than bombings may have been to blame.

"Air strikes are not acceptable," Karzai told CNN on Friday during a visit to Washington. "We believe strongly that air strikes are not an effective way of fighting terrorism, that air strikes rather cause civilian casualties."

There has been an admission from the US military that it killed civilians in the strikes—which were called in by Afghan forces under attack by Taliban insurgents in the northern province of Herat overnight from Monday to Tuesday.

But Karzai placed responsibility for the deaths squarely on the shoulders of the US military.

"This was definitely caused by bombings," he said. When asked if he was referring to US bombings, he simply responded, "Yes." He did, however, recognize that Taliban rear civilians as "human shields."

Karzai—who faces elections in August—talked tough at the end of a trip to the United States that had been meant to build support for the fight against Taliban and al-Qaida extremists across Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In meeting with Karzai, US President Barack Obama pledged more caution to avoid civilian casualties and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton voiced regret for the deaths.

Karzai held three-way talks with Obama and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, who has been pushing unsuccessfully for an end to US drone attacks inside his country said to have killed top militants but also civilians.

Afghan police have told AFP that more than 100 people were killed, about 25 to 30 of them insurgents and the remainder civilians, including elderly people and children.

The US military said that the figure was "grossly exaggerated" but did not offer a separate toll. US and Afghan teams were expected to announce findings from their investigations on Saturday.

"There were civilian casualties, no doubt," said Colonel Greg Julian, a spokesperson in Kabul for US forces in Afghanistan.

"But the reason we have the investigation has not been reached, and it's inappropriate to indicate one way or the other how they were caused."

One of the issues being examined was whether the Taliban had caused the civilian casualties by detonating hand grenades among villagers, he said.

Karzai dismissed the possibility and said the toll could exceed 100.

"I got definitive word from the government this morning that there were more than 100 casualties—mostly 125 to 130 civilians lost. Deaths...children, women, and men—and it was done by the bombing," he said.

In a separate interview with US network NBC to be broadcast Sunday, Karzai said that villagers "are not where the terrorists are," according to excerpts made public.

"Civilian casualties are undermining support in the Afghan people, for the war on terrorism, and for relations with America. How can you expect a people who keep losing their children to remain friendly?" Karzai asked. AFP

More than 30,000 ordered to flee California fire

SANTA BARBARA—TOWERING flames lashed like an inferno," said Maria Martinez, 58, who with her fiancé hurriedly left her home in San Marcos Pass, on the edge of Santa Barbara. The couple went in an evacuation center at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Flames "exploded around" schools that emerge from the slopes in the evening didn't happen as predicted, but Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Tom Frankle warned they could return "and blow the fire back downhill." Instead, breezes blew in from the Pacific Ocean late Friday, pushing the fire away from homes, he said.

Officials estimated 80 homes were destroyed—most of them on Wednesday—in neighborhoods on ridges and in canyons above Santa Barbara.

No deaths or serious injuries were reported.

The number of people ordered to evacuate rose to 30,000 on Friday from 12,000 the night before as the blaze pushed west toward neighboring towns and east toward well-to-do Montecito.

"Literally last night, all hell broke loose," Santa Barbara Fire Chief Andrew Hilditch said Friday morning, recounting firefighters' efforts to put out roof fires and keep flames out of his section of the city.

The cause of the blaze, which broke out Tuesday, remained under investigation. AP

FIRE threatens a house as strong gusty winds fan the mountains fire on a ridge above Santa Barbara on May 8. Firefighters struggled to get a grip on an out-of-control wildfire raging in California that has destroyed at least 75 houses and forced tens of thousands to flee. AP

At Home with REY Home Centre

REY Marketing, Inc. welcomes everyone to our newly opened home centers located at 834 E. Aguinaldo Hi-way, Aguba 1-D, Imus, Cavite and #200 Dr. A. Santos Avenue, San Isidro, Sucat, Parañaque City. Both openings formally kicked off with a mi-acu-cade last March 14, 2009 and May 1, 2009 respectively. Today, we have twenty (20) REY Home Centers in and around Metro Manila, Rizal, Batangas, Bulacan and Cavite.

The facade of the newly opened branches of REY Home Center, the Imus branch and the Sucat branch

Stocking our stores for your home needs is made easier with our clean, organized, and wide interiors. We constant ourselves in friendly service and a variety of products for the bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, and garden.

Late last year, we were chosen by Cotto Tiles from Thailand to be one of their distributors. Cotto Tiles offer a wide array of homegrowns as well as mosaic tiles for your home, indoor, outdoor, and swimming pool requirements. We also carry Cotto Sanitary Ware.

Come and visit any REY Home Center near you or visit our website at www.reyhomecenter.com for all your home finishing needs and feel at home with our products and service!

White House aide resigns over NYC flyover

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE HOUSE official who authorized a $328,835 photo op of Air Force One soaring above New York City resigned under fire on Friday as the administration tried to mend fast the embarrassing incident that sent panicked workers rushing into the streets amid flashbacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

As former Army Secretary Louis Caldera took the hill for the flyover, the White House released the findings of an internal investigation that put the blame squarely on one of the top in a cycle of missed messages and questionable judgments as plans for the photo shoot proceeded.

Caldera said he didn't know Air Force One would fly at 500 meters during the April 27 photo promotion, according to the investigation findings. He also failed to read an e-mail message describing the operations and seemed unaware of the potential for public fear, the findings said.

Local officials had been notified in advance. But it was a shock to New Yorkers who looked up to see the Boeing 747 and its fighter jet escort flying near the Statue of Liberty and lower Manhattan's financial district, a horrifying reminder of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in which jets brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

The Federal Aviation Administration told local officials in advance of the flight, but asked them not to disclose it to the public; the White House report said. There was a prepared statement for the FAA's New York regional office and for the Air Force in Washington to release if anyone called to ask about the flight.

In his resignation letter, released by the White House, Caldera said the controversy had "made it impossible for me to effectively lead the White House Military Office," which is responsible for presidential aircraft. "Moreover, it has become a distraction to the important work you are doing as president," he wrote in the letter addressed to President Barack Obama.

Last month, Obama called the flight a mistake and vowed it would not be repeated. Obama had no statement on Friday. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the president had accepted Caldera's resignation.

Caldera's office approved the photo op, which cost $355,000 to fuel—close to the plane and two jet fighters escorts. The Air Force estimated the photo shoot cost taxpayers $328,835.

White House officials said the purpose of the flight was to update the official photos of the plane's interior on Air Force One, when the president is aboard. AP

Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Bids and Awards Committee for the Halls of Justice

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court, through the Bids and Awards Committee for the Halls of Justice, invites prospective contractors and agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of JANITORIAL SERVICES for the period from 16 July 2009 to 31 December 2010 in the Halls of Justice contained in Cluster/Region IV.

CLUSTER/REGION	NO. OF HALLS OF JUSTICE	NO. OF JANITORS	BUDGET
Cluster IVA – CALABARZON Cluster IVB – MIMAROPA	20	70	P 16,617,600.00

SOURCE OF FUND	APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE HALLS OF JUSTICE
Issuance of Bid Documents (upon payment of P 2,500.00)	May 11 to 27, 2009 Office of the Halls of Justice
Pre-bid Conference	June 01, 2009 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. at the Office of the Halls of Justice
Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids and Opening of Bids	June 15, 2009 Tuesday on or before 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Halls of Justice, 5/F Centerpoint Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila

All particulars relative to this bidding shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A.

Only the bids of eligible bidders will be opened. Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders immediately after the declaration of the eligible bidders.

Any absent shall be made not only on the basis of the bid price but also on, among others, the experience, licenses, sufficiency of maintenance and cleaning equipment, financial capability, degree of promptness in rendering janitorial services, and other technical parameters prescribed by the Bids and Awards Committee.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to the Court or make any defect or infirmity thereof.

(SGD.) ANTONIO M. BUGNA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee for the Halls of Justice

WORLDBRIEFS

Burma's Suu Kyi 'not in good health'

RANGOON—Burma's (Myanmar) opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is "not in good health" as she cannot eat, while her doctor is being detained by military authorities, her party spokesperson told AFP Saturday. The 63-year-old Nobel Laureate, who is detained in relation to an incident in May 2003 when pro-democracy convoy was attacked by a pro-government mob, has been placed on an intravenous drip by her doctor's assistant, Nyan Win said. "The lady's not in good health. She cannot eat and she has low blood pressure," Nyan Win said. AFP

Taiwan's ex-president hospitalized

TAIPEI— Former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian was hospitalized for dehydration on Sunday, a hospital official said, after he went on a hair-like hunger strike to protest his detention over graft charges. Television footage showed police officers removing a pale-looking Chen, with his eyes closed, on a gurney into the Taipei County Hospital in Banqiao in suburban Taipei. Taichung Detention Center—where Chen has been held since November on corruption charges—said in a statement that the former leader was transferred to the hospital after he refused signs of dehydration Saturday morning. It said he refused water and solid food for two days. AP

Mysterious deaths at Thai resort

BANGKOK—Two young women—one from the United States and the other from Norway—died after suddenly falling ill within hours of each other at a guesthouse on a tourist resort island in southern Thailand. Police said on Thursday they did not know the cause of the deaths, though various theories have circulated, including food or alcohol poisoning and toxic fumes. The two women were staying in Koh Phi Phi, a popular destination for budget travelers. The American was identified by her family as Jill St. Onge, 21, a bartender and artist from Seattle, who died Sunday. Norwegian media and the Web site newspaper Aftenposten Times identified the Norwegian as Julie Michelle Berghaim, 22. She died Monday. AP

South Africa welcomes new president

PRETORIA—Mourners rehearsed and workers rolled out red carpets before dawn on Saturday in the sprawling arena outside of the presidency as South Africa prepared to swear in Jacob Zuma with an excitement that recalled Nelson Mandela's inauguration in 1994. Zuma, the fourth president since apartheid ended 15 years ago, enjoys a popularity many European leaders envy. But shaky rural roots and growing scandals surround him, though Zuma's origins are much humbler. Zuma was elected president by parliament on May 6. AP

Christians, Jews urged to reconcile

AMMAN—POPE BENEDICT XVI called on humanity for reconciliation between Christians and Jews, a day after entering his "deep respect" for Islam on his first trip to the Holy Land as pontiff.

"The ancient tradition of pilgrimage to the holy places stirs reminds us of the inseparable bond between the Church and the Jewish people," Benedict said at Mount Nebo, where the Bible says God showed the Promised Land to Moses.

"May our encounter today inspire us as a renewed love for the canon of sacred scripture and a desire as successors of shepherds to the reconciliation of Christians and Jews in mutual respect and cooperation," the pontiff added on the slopes of the strategic mountain.

The 1,900-meter peak of Mount Nebo, some 40 km southwest of the Jordanian capital Amman, is holy to all three religions due to the tradition of Moses.

The 82-year-old head of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics was later Saturday to meet Muslim leaders in Amman as he presses ahead with his first visit to an Arab country.

On arrival to the kingdom on Friday, the pontiff said he arrive "as a pilgrim, to venerate holy places that have played such an important part in some of the key events of Biblical history."

She he also told journalists that interfaith dialogue was "very important for peace," adding: The Church "is not a political force but a spiritual force which can contribute to the progress of the peace process" in the Middle East.

As he began his tour, the Pope said it gave him "a welcome opportunity to speak of my deep respect for the Muslim community" and he also called religious freedom "a fundamental human right."

The palace said that at a meeting at the royal offices, the king and Pope "stressed the need to continue and deepen Muslim-Christian dialogue and reconciliation."

Christian-Muslim ties were strained worldwide after the Pope in 2006 quoted a medieval Christian emperor who criticized some teachings of the Prophet Mohammed as "evil and inhuman."

The pontiff apologized later for the "unfortunate misunderstanding." AFP

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Smart Gilas RP five faces tough stint

By June Navarro

EXPECTATIONS WILL BE QUITE LOW FOR the Smart Gilas Pilipinas National Team when it carries the country's colors in the 16-ba Asia Championship Cup.

But for a fledgling team jetsoning up for a big-get mission abroad, flying to Jakarta, Indonesia tonight and doing battle against the best club teams in Asia for 10 days will be something to look forward to.

"We are optimistic and hopeful although it will be a tall order," said Sinenberg Basketball ng Pilipinas executive director Noli Eala. "The team is young and inexperienced but not lacking in heart and fighting spirit."

Headed up by American CJ Giles, the 15-player Gilas RP team reassigned chiefly of mid-higlate standouts has been ranged against defending champion Iran, Lebanon, Korea and Kuwait in Group A of the 10-nation meet slated May 11-19.

Team skipper Chris Tiu, Mark Barroca, Jiro Canta, Mac Baracael and Dylan Ababou are expected to provide firepower for the Nationals aside from the 6-foot-10 Giles.

Other members of the team are Greg Slaughter, Jason Shilmauera, Aldrich Ramos, Ryan Buenafe, RJ Jazul, JR Casasding, Fred Ames, Pay Guevara, and Migz Ilesa.

"The main idea is to give these exposure and prepare them for the 2011 Phil-Asia Championship," said Eala.

MAGNOLIA'S Noel Ramos finds his path to the basket cut off by Cobra's Elmer Espiritu. Ramos, however, managed to draw a foul in the play.

Cobra lethal foe for M'nolia

By Cashell P. Tupas

BLOOD OOZED FROM THE eyebrow of Cobra Energy Drink point guard James Martinez after an elbow from Edwin Torres of Magnolia in the second quarter.

It took five stitches to close the nasty cut but Martinez remained to help the Energy Warriors rally for a rugged 74-67 victory over the Mighty in the opener of their best-of-three semifinal series in the PBL PG Flex Unity Cup at the Imarin Sports Arena in Buhi City.

Paul Lee started to a scoring fourth-quarter assault for Cobra, capping his heroics with a fastbreak layup off his own steal on Eder Saldua with 45 seconds left that catapulted up the win for the Energy Warriors, who trailed by as many as 13 points in the third quarter.

Martinez earlier found the perfect way to get back at the Wizards, nailing a couple of treys that was part of a 10-2 blast that turned the game around.

Torres was ejected for elbowing Martinez at the 5:58 mark of the second period.

"This is a big win," said Cobra assistant coach Yael Dorado, who took over the coaching duties from Lawrence Chongson, currently in the United States to attend to personal matters. "We really prepared for this game after losing our last two games."

The Energy Warriors now join top qualifiers Oracle Resthouse, Lizolia and Phoenix in the semifinals with another victory in Game 2 on Tuesday.

"We expected a physical game, but I told the players to stay focused," Dorado said.

Scoreless stretch

The Energy Warriors held the Wizards scoreless in the first five minutes of the fourth period, while Lee and Martinez found their range from beyond the arc to turn a 51-57 deficit into a 68-59 lead.

The Wizards enjoyed a massive 40-30 edge in rebounding and led 51-39 on Ogie Menor's triple midway in the third period, but they failed to score in five of their last seven possessions.

Rudy Lingganay, quarterbacking when Martinez was being treated, made the most out of his stint, finishing with 13 points.

But it was Lee, last conference's best player, who drew heighten.

He nailed a jumper, and after a Martinez try, completed a rare three-point play with 8:05 remaining as the Energy Warriors took the lead for the first time since early in the second period, 60-57.

"Paul needed the game to get his confidence back," Dorado said of Lee, who also had six rebounds and three assists.

Turnovers

FORDS 16—Asi-Ali Lingganay 11, Melchor Ti 1, Agat 10, Lalanto 12, Espiritu 8, Torres 2, Arana 2, Ferreras 0, Fradejas.

MAGNOLIA 67—Ramos 13, Menor 5, Evans 6, Saldua 5, Ignacio 6, Andaya 5, Sena 4, Lucenario 2, Magpayo 5, Mercado 5, Tibi 0, Sotiangco.

Quarters: 13-29, 39-30, 51-51, 74-67

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Roach wants to keep Manny busy, eyes interim bout

By Roy Luarca

EVEN AN OPTION. SHOTER TRAINER. Freddie Roach wants his prized ward, Manny Pacquiao, to fight two more times before the year ends.

The boxing star fight more than what was envisioned by Top Rank head honcho and the quiet promoter Bob Arum, who wants the Filipino ring icon to return to action in November.

Roach said that Pacquiao's two-round demolition of Ricky Hatton last Saturday in Las Vegas was too short and quick for all the hard work the world's best pound-for-pound fighter were through.

Still sharp. Roach added that Pacquiao will need to put up only a little effort to achieve peak form for his next assignment, presumably against Miguel Cotto, if he gets past Joshua Clottey next month, or the winner of the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Juan Manuel Marquez match-on July 18.

In a recent interview with TheBlingTV's Michael Rosenthal, Roach said he's still trying to work out what's best for Pacquiao, who started training in his Wild Card Gym in Hollywood in 2000.

If Roach gets his wish for an interim fight for Pacquiao, the three-time Trainer of the Year considers world No. 2 junior welterweight Timothy Bradley a possibility and knockout artist Edwin Valero a distant candidate.

Also in Roach's radar is Shane Mosley, who, however, wants to fight Pacquiao at 147 pounds, which is deemed too heavy for Pacquiao considering that he ripped the scales at 138 lb against Hatton despite having breakfast during the official weigh-in.

Roach wants a catch weight of 143 when Pacquiao takes on the welterweight fighters again.

While Roach believes that Pacquiao-Mayweather Jr. would bring in the big bucks, he still maintains that it's going to happen because of Mayweather's unacceptable demand for a 60-40 split in his favor.

ROACH

Santy new 'Padyak' leader

FORMER TOUR CHAMPION SANTY Barnachea grabbed the overall lead after scoring better with a 10-man pack which trish Valenzuela crossed to the finish in yesterday's Stage 2 of the Padyak Pinoy 2009 Tour of Champions.

Six other team captains also made it to the top 10 overall classification behind Barnachea, the 2006 champion and ALI 200 skipper, paving the way for an exciting race among the big guns of the eight-stage bikathon.

Valenzuela of Columbia Sportswear, who is being eyed by an Indonesian professional team, made his move in the last 100 meters to nip fellow Manilla of Amsterdam Vinyl and teammate Mar speedster Frederic Felisisno of Cagayahan for top honors.

"We took turns up front," said Valenzuela, who timed four hours, 52 minutes and 32 seconds for the 210-km lap that saw the field tackle some portions of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway before finishing in Apalit where it started.

Barnachea floated with the lead pack that also included 2008 Tour champion Israel Quintero of Columbia Sportswear and Ruby Barrios of Burger King, who went on to secure the No. 2 and No. 3 spots overall.

Mainly because of his fifth place finish in the opening lap, Barnachea took to the overall lead of 10 seconds over Quintero with an aggregate time of 5:18:04. Barrios was just 41 seconds behind.

Renato Bondoman of Tarahay the Stage 1 winner, led the nine-man second group for the day and secured top fourth overall, 2:40 behind.

Completing the top 10 were Dexy Bautista of Uber Media (2:48 behind), Princess Dumalilio of Mail and Wood (2:48), Hendrie (2:48), Feliciano (2:51), Erik Arroyo of American Vinyl (2:53) and Joel Calderon of Smart Buddy (2:55).

Anselmo Vinyl, with the strong showing of Bautista, Jovero and Bayquen for the day, surged into the team lead with a time of 23 hours, 2 minutes and 48 seconds.

The Manila contend up to second 0:01:47 behind and Columbia Sportswear was third 1:16:46.009 off the leader. Invincible team leader Tarahay dropped to eighth, at 2:36:37 behind.

Aside from the regular lap prize of P5,000, the 23-year-old Valenzuela received P10,000 more courtesy of Apalit Mayor Ace Henares.

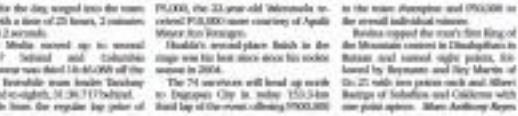
Bautista's second-place finish in the opening stage has been since his rookie season in 2004.

The 74 survivors will head up north to Dagupan City in today 153.3-km final lap of the event offering P500,000 in the team champion and P50,000 in the overall individual winner.

Bautista topped the men's first King of the Mountains contest in Dinalupihan in Bataan and earned eight points, followed by Bayquen and Jhay Martin of Uber (7) with two points each and Albert Bastiga of Sebelius and Calderon with one point apiece. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

CYCLISTS make their way through the SCTEx during the 2nd stage of the Padyak Pinoy bike race.

TOUR RESULTS—Stage 2: Apalit to Apalit, Pampanga (210 km)



Rumors on MVP just won't die down

ALTHOUGH HE DENIED IT ON National television just the other day, some people continue to believe that PLDT's Manny V. Pangilinan is running for President of the Philippines in the 2010 elections.

Only yesterday, I was informed by colleague that MVP has registered as a voter in his hometown Apalit in Pampanga.

Conversely, Apalit was chosen as one of the destinations of this year's cycling tour "Padyak Pinoy."

According to my scribe friend, never in his many years of covering the Tour, has Apalit been a destination, since it did not have the facilities and amenities for such an event. Host-by San Miguel Corp. so would have been the more practical choice, he said.

"This year however, the park is even getting Apalit ready. I wonder if the cyclists will be lodged in public schools, as they once were years ago, since the plans does not have hotels to house the cycling entourage."

"I'm inclined to believe that they're setting the stage for MVP's candidacy" the scribe said.

* * *

Are they?

Patrick Gregorio, the fellow most likely to be MVP's campaign manager if and when he decides to launch his candidacy, explained that as one of the co-presenters of Padyak Pinoy, Smart sponsored the organizers to participate. Apalit "so that through sports we can help promote the hometown of MVP." Secondly, Apalit is a strategic hub to use the NLEx and the SCTEx for sports tourism where MVP is also the chair."

Patrick said MVP wants to help organize an Asian version of the Tour de France by next year. "It will then be known as "Tour ng Pilipinas," he said.

* * *

From Las Vegas, Amy Rosario Maballa-ud sent home to Manila either by SMS.

It wasn't really an amount to crow about but Amy Maballa-ud was thrilled to read. He said he had placed what he called a friendly bet of P5,000 on the Bergasa-Ramos fight last May 2 and he won it by him P95.

"My bet was that Pacquiao would win between the first and fourth round. I won P95 because the odds were 20 to 1 that Manny would win by a second round knockout," he explained.

* * *

I wonder if Tourism secretary-apostate Ronnie Ong-ames had also followed his hunches.

On the morning of the fight, after the Mass held for Pacquiao at the Francis Center of Mandaluyong Boy Herrin suddenly felt a strong premonition.

"We were walking with Manny—Ate-ate, Dr. Jacinto Ng, Mayor Benhur—when the feeling hit him. It's as if he read the future in Manny's mind," related Herrin's friend. Bell Dr. Leon. "Herrin was sure Manny would win over Barrios. He told Manny the fight would last less than 5 rounds."

* * *

Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. If there's anything to blame for his team's recent loses, San Lucie governor Buddy Encarnado said a big part of it is because of the particular disorder that keeps Realcor Kelly Williams out of action.

"ITP is the condition of having a low platelet count with no known cause. Kelly is still undergoing various tests to determine what is causing the abnormality in his platelets. He said the blood disorder runs in his family."

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cayko

NCA derby pits RP vs US

FOURSOME COCKED from the United States and the Philippines will meet for the World Championship of Cockfighting Derby to be held by the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) on May 19, 21 and 23.

San Beda alike is teaming up with the Firefly Group, will become of the many guests for the international sports event.

San Jay Vivares is matched for the 1st Philippine-American gamefowl enthusiasts to watch the World Champ ionship Derby.

Dubbed as the Olympics of cockfighting, the NCA World Championship Derby is the toughest and most prestigious derby in the world.

The NCA World Championship Derby is held inside a derby arena every year. And has been in existence for more than 20 years.

Behind Vike, James Lily, Erie dela Rosa and Jun Tapacio are defending their title in the international derby. All four of them emerged as champions in the NCA World Championship Derby and January.

Top American cockfighting aficionados Ricky Tommy Cooper, Jeff Hatchell, Jim Wentzel, George Torres and others are also expected to arrive for the event.

Garcia-Fernandez targets Forest Hills title repeat

ANTIPOLO—DEFENDING CHAMPION Rudy Garcia-James Fernandez posted 72 points to set the pace in the low gross race and prime itself up for a repeat romp to the Forest Hills tournament crown at the well-manned golf fundraiser course here.

Garcia fired a five-under par 67, while Fernandez returned a 75 for a combined score of 72 which was good for a seven shot lead over the Edgar Lee-Mike Miranda tandem and another shot up on the Edgar Garcia-Jessy Hechi combine to the mixed pro-am/amateur Hyundai-and Golfcore.

Aside from a brand new Tucson, golf outs from Honda, Civic Car and Texas Eagle and P100,000 in cash from Hankook Intimex are also being dangled for holes-in-one on designated holes while the unending, which will be held today, to give away a Hyundai 0.8 two-hunky-winner in the raffle.

Miranda had a 78, while Lee fired a 77 for a net 65, while Garcia and Jessy accumulated a 78 and a 74, respectively even as the team of Pelagio Alcantara and Ed Lingo paced Group 1 action with 82 points.

Joseph Julian-Jun Castaneda paced low net competition with 84 points followed by the Alcantara-Lingayo combine.

San Andres scores bike sweep

KENNETH SAN ANDRES poured icing for the country's No. 1 rides sweeping the Pro Open and the Pro 123 divisions of the 2nd round of the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namsasa) National Supercross Series at the Mold. ex Subdivision in San Jose, Bulacan.

KENNETH San Andres performs a little stunt after reaching the finish line

San Andres survived the challenge of the veterans in both the Pro Open and Pro 123 to further pull away in the standings of event dubbed the Mayors EV Boquiren Cup.

The Information Technology students of Manila Central University (MCU) subsequent JC Bullion (2nd), Jovin Suing (3rd) and John Jan (4th) to the backseat of the Pro Open heats, winning the races by almost half a lap in yet another dominant show.

He was also peerless in the Pro 123, dominating practically the same field.

"The many obstacles and jumps in the race course, kept my competitors jaws flowing," said San Andres.

Kenneth's father/coach Jessie made it a double celebration for the family after topping the Veterans' Class, where he also scored a sweep.

Isla swim clinics phase 3 on

THE ISLA BUSINESS SPORTS LEARNING ACADEMY (ISABLE) by Rickie Isla and backed by former Olympian Eduardo "Bal" Rosario announced that registration is still on going for the third phase of the clinics that kick off today. For more details, call 8874823, 8880188, 8820-8803/8846 and 8820-4887/8846 or email rickie_isla@yahoo.com. The clinics are fully-supported by the Mizuno sports clothing. Dennylino B. Ramirez and will run up to next month at Ayala Malls Feliz in Manila, Filinvest City, Las Piñas, Laguna, Batangas and Zambaanga City. Basketball and taekwondo clinics are also still available at selected venues.

AIR 21 SMART We're helping Sports. Abante ang Tagumpay!

Forbes lifts TNT past Coca-Cola

By Jun Navarro

Visayas scores a sweep

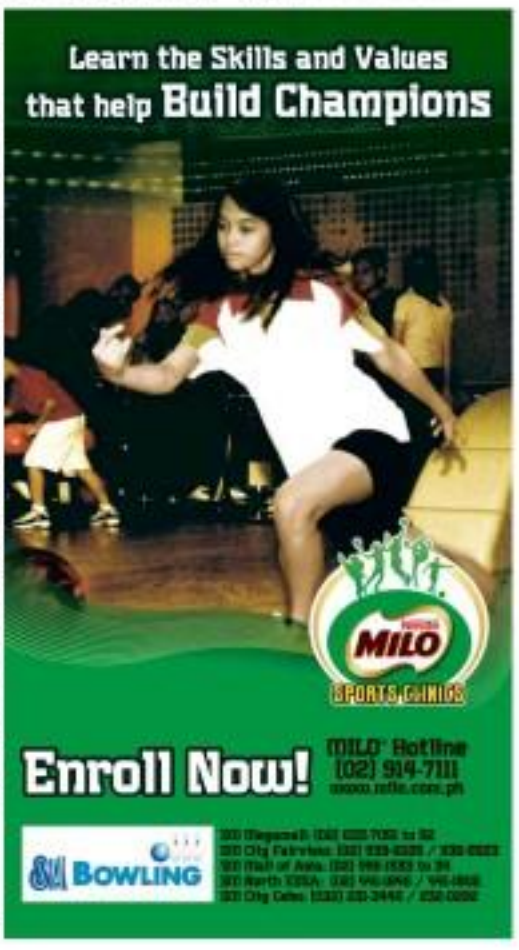
By Rovina S. Acuavia

APPLE for sore (middle) and Ilche Camille Ferrer of the University of Southern Philippines celebrate their victory.

Manila creams Davao, rules NBTC hoops

Bulls nose out Patriots; Sharks stun Dolphins

By Mae Anthony Reyes



SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Key Adamson-FEU duel up

Ho crushes First Gen netfest foe

Caroline-RP Youth sees action today

THE CAROLINE PHILIPPINES-RIZBOYS POOL TO TEAM FACES ITS FIRST BIG test in the Women's Basketball League today at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig. The 24-player pool takes on Philippine College of Criminology at 4 p.m. The Sarsaliang Basketball Inc.(Philippines)-backed by Smart/PLDT man Manny V. Pangilinan is banding the campaign of the Caroline-RP Youth team.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]

Lakers ground Rockets

Magic rip Celtics; original Dream Team coach dies

HOUSTON, TEXAS—KOBE BRYANT powered his 32 points to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 100-94 Northwest Basketball Association playoff victory Friday over the Rockets, who watched under Yao Ming limp away on a sore left foot.

The victory gave Los Angeles a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series.

Lamar Odom scored 16 points with 13 rebounds and reserve point guard Jordan Stone had 12 points and seven assists standing in for suspended Derek Fisher, who had been tossed from game two after a hard foul on Houston's Cuttino Mobley.

"There was little sign of such rough play in game three until the Rockets' Ron Artest was ejected for a hard foul on Pau Gasol in the final minutes.

Artest was ejected from game two for a verbal altercation with Bryant following Bryant's elbow to Artest's upper chest.

"I don't think that was a flagrant, maybe a flagrant one," Bryant said of Artest's ejection. "That rule is so all over the place. It's hard to judge. Do our 90s today so that's just two thirds and let's go."

Magic victory

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard scored 17 points with 14 rebounds to lead Southeast-ern Orlando to a 117-96 victory over reigning champion Boston Celtics.

Rasheed Lewis scored 26 points, and Shaquille Rockgate chipped in 20 for the Magic, who played without suspended point guard Tony Alston but still edged ahead, 2-1, in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The NBA suspended Alston for one game for smacking Eddie House in the back of the head in game two.

Paul Pierce struck off his series-scoring score with 25, and Raina Bonds added 15 for the Celtics, who narrowed a 20-point deficit to overcome but couldn't get closer.

"You give them their inside game and their outside game—then you don't have a chance," Pierce said.

"Just the whole team stepped up the defensive intensity," Howard said.

Goodbye, Chuck

Meanwhile, Chuck Daly, who coached the original Dream Team to the Olympic gold medal in 1992, after retiring back-to-back NBA championships with the Detroit Pistons, has died. He was 70.

He died Saturday morning with his family by his side, the team said. The Pistons announced in March that the Hall of Fame coach had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was undergoing treatment.

Daly coached NBA superstars such as Magic Johnson, Joakim, Larry Bird and Barkley in leading a different lineup in every game at the Barcelona Olympics.

"I played against Chuck's teams throughout the NBA for a lot of years. He always had his team prepared, he's a 'Sun coach,' Bird said recently after Daly's diagnosis became public. "Chuck did a good job of keeping an organiz," Bird said.

AP/AP

BOY FROM CHICAGO: Magic Paul Pierce sheds an elbow Orlando center Dwight Howard in the season's best defensive player as his shot is thwarted by the Magic superstar.

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Globetrotters arriving for 3-game show

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN?

Comical and talented basketball ambassadors the Harlem Globetrotters will visit the country for the first time since 1992, when they play three games in the Araneta Coliseum on May 14 and 15.

The Globetrotters are scheduled for a double header on the 14th with shows at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and will cap their stay with a 7 p.m. marquee appearance on the 15th.

Among the current crop of Globetrotters expected at since their three stuff are 7-foot-3 Mayo super alumnus of Kentucky; 6-1½ Kenny (Sweet Pea) Sykes of Philadelphia; 6-7 Nate (Tiki Lite) Hoskins of Benedict College; 6-4 Pete (The Short) Mackey of Arizona State; 6-8 "El Gato" Melendez of UNLV; 6-9 Apollo Fraser of Villanova; 6-8 "Hank" Miller (Sister of St. John's; 6-4 Hall Ballard of Duke; 6-8 Cooper Cheatham and 6-4 speaker (Hot Shot) Branch of Illinois.

The team started out as a competitive squad that only plays Globetrotters and won once they had a big lead. Eventually though, the Globetrotters morphed into a purely entertaining comedy team that can perform amazing basketball tricks.

Among NBA greats who had stints with the Globetrotters are Magic Johnson and Wilt Chamberlain. Former PBA imports Jose also suited up for the squad like ex-Red Bull midfielder/actor Scooter McKnight.

Behind "The Harlem Globetrotters Live in Manila," the event is presented by SFX C/O and Mes Entertainment and booked by San Miguel Pioneer Insurance and Dusit Hotel. Tickets are available at all Ticketnet outlets and at the Araneta Coliseum. For inquiries call 911-5555 or visit www.ticketnet.com.ph.

Tour de Cagayan kicks off today

THE TOUR DE CAGAYAN, A 248-KM BICYCLE race that will trace to the challenging northeast side of Luzon, will kick off at the Ynares Sports Center in Pasig City today.

With a total of P1.2 million in cash prizes at stake, at elite selection of 76 cyclists who have passed two previous pre-qualifying tournaments will race from Metro Manila to the northern tip of Luzon in Cagayan during a grueling five-day competition, organized by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) in cooperation with the Cycling Organizers Association of the Philippines (COAP).

The five-leg race will start in Pasig City, stopping through Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, and finishes before lifting the finish line on May 14 in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

Runners listing on

REGISTRATION CONTINUES FOR THE 16.6-km 26th Anniversary Open Challenge, which fires off the 2.2k, 5k and 10k runs on May 24, 6 a.m., in front of the Manuela Mall at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Entry fee for regular participants (April 12 to May 15) is P600 for the registrants (May 17 to 23, P700, and for on-site applicants on event day, P800.

Interested runners can drop by any of the following locations: Rm. 203-A the SEC Bldg. on Jacinto St., UP Diliman or call 920-4330; the Second Wind Running Store at 88 Mapalmas St., Teachers Village, Quezon City or call 709-2086; or the Ibarra Pediatric Clinic at Pres. 202 Amparo Bldg., A. Bonifacio Ave., Cebu. Phone call 238-2000.

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

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Mothers know best

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Mothers are the first teachers, it is often said. And according to the chief executive officers of some of the top corporations in the Philippines, they are the best educators, too.

From them they learned valuable lessons that have shaped their character and allowed them to climb to the top of the corporate ladder.

Here are a few features, here a sample of these priceless nuggets of wisdom.

"Something my mother taught me that has always stayed with me is to always prioritize and make time for your family. When all is said and done, and no matter whatever else you may or may not have accomplished, your children are your most meaningful legacy. Their character, values and happiness are the best reflection of who you are and what you're truly worth as a human being."

Mark Pickthorne
President and CEO
HSBC

"My mom taught me to be passionate in everything I do, to be grateful for the blessings I receive and to cherish the little things in life. A deep sense of gratitude and fulfillment is felt every time I think of the times she loves and nurtures us unconditionally, without expecting anything in return."

Jill Ang
Managing Director
Worldbex Services International

"My mother has always impressed upon me the importance of honesty and hard work. Honesty has helped me gain the trust of people I deal with, while hard work has given me the right work ethic to take on every assignment. I have been given in the company."

Edgardo G. Glean
Country Chair
Philippines Shell
Petroleum Corp.

"Having travelled in more than 10 countries when I was young, she taught me how to respect people and nature, learn from each of these countries by adapting to the cultures, religion and way of living."

William Hamilton-White
General Manager
Nokia Philippines

"Know how to collect your receivables or else your client will not respect you. Collect to get respect, my mother always told me. And she also told me to eat a lot of fruits and vegetables every day!"

Bobwel Goyiasin Jr., PSA Gen chair

"Hard work and perseverance. That's what I learned from my mother. She was a housemaker and an entrepreneur. With very little money she saved from the meager salary of my father (a construction foreman) she'd log on along to Divisoria and buy some garments that she'd cut and sew herself into baby dresses, dusters and sell in the public markets of Pasig and Marikina. The proceeds augmented her budget for the household and even for our little needs in school like slippers or a new pair of short pants. I remember her cutting and sewing deep into the night as I also learned the midnight oil in my studies. A sturdy and strong-willed woman she blissfully bested all of 80 years for which we siblings were thankful for. We know how it was to have a caring and loving mother, one we continue to emulate today."

Lim Eapsuan
President
South East Asian Airlines

"My mother teaches me always encouraging. Do the best in everything you do and bring out the best in everyone you meet!"

Benjamin F. Castillo
President and CEO
MegaLink

"The most important lesson I learned from my mother is on believe in myself and not to rely on others. She made me learn to value hard work, my motto being a government employee until her retirement. She taught me to appreciate and be content with the simple joys in life and that is something that I intend to pass on to my son. That is not easy considering the environment we are in."

Monty Ilchin
CEO
SN Aboitiz Power Inc.

"My mother teaches Catechism. So the lessons I've learned are quite related to the subject. She always taught me to practice simplicity, humility and forgiveness. The value of simplicity helps to keep me grounded and never unnecessarily call attention to myself. The value of simplicity, humility makes me recognize that I am no better than the next person in the eyes of God. And forgiveness is the key to happiness."

Alfred Xavier Burgos III
President and CEO
Landco Pacific Corp.

"My mother has always impressed upon me the importance of honesty and hard work. Honesty has helped me gain the trust of people I deal with, while hard work has given me the right work ethic to take on every assignment. I have been given in the company."

Edgardo G. Glean
Country Chair
Philippines Shell
Petroleum Corp.

MORE HERE B2

Mothers know best

From page B1

"The greatest lesson I've learned from my mom is to be grateful for everything that you have, no matter how big or small, whether good or bad."

Ramon G. Arnaldo
President
Canon Marketing Philippines Inc.

"I learned from my mom the importance of prayer, and developing a relationship with God. As a child we where forced but today as an adult I now understand why."

Jean S. Concepcion II
CEO
RDM Group of Companies

"I am who I am today in large part because of my mom. She showed me how to love people unconditionally and that's what I try to show my kids as well."

Glenn Yu
President and CEO
GOKAI

"I learned a lesson in self-sacrifice from my mother (Maria Irene Hontiveros). She always put her children ahead of her own welfare. Let me illustrate. Since we were poor, there was not enough food on the table for 12 siblings. So, she let us eat the freshly cooked food, and she would eat later what was left on the table. My mother worked hard running her business as a rice dealer. The income was not much, but it was well enough income to enable us to go to school and finish our college courses."

Jose R. de Jesus
President
Manila Electric Co.

"My mother taught me the values of patience and resiliency. Widowed at a young age, she raised me two sisters and me while always offering a helping hand and a listening ear to everyone around her. And I don't remember ever hearing her complain. That's why I always use a silver lining in every challenge that I have as a CEO in ASB. Like my mother, I believe that life is what you make it. And if you look positively into the future, the past will just be a reminder of how far you've actually gone."

Ken Hermann
President and CEO
ASB Philippines

"Every day I am witness to my Mom living the qualities of integrity, sacrifice, commitment, and prayer. She is a true inspiration to me and I love her very much."

Dennis Monasterio
General Manager
Sony Ericsson

"From my mom, I learned how to love God and always make Him the center of my life. I learned to help those less fortunate than myself by watching the different charity projects she was always involved in while I was growing up. I learned about unconditional love seeing how she loves all eight of her children equally and truly unconditionally. No easy feat considering we are all completely different and difficult in our own ways. She is always generous with us, whether it be with her time, help or advice. Because of her example, I do my best to be the same with my own children."

John Concepcion
Managing Director and CEO
Selectic ERC

"Josefina Jacellano Ramos was 89 when she passed away two years ago. She was a public school teacher for almost 40 years. She lived a full life of compassion for her students, devotion to her faith and unconditional love for her children.

"She was my mother and I miss her terribly."

Greg Ramos
CEO
Pamalgbayan & Arnaldo

"My mother was the most giving person I ever knew. And I learned from her that giving to others, putting yourself ahead of yourself, is the greatest gift you can give, and most powerful role model for children and others. And hence it is no surprise to this day when I look at heroes of the world today—from Ghandi to Ninoy Aquino to many others... that the essence of their greatness lies in putting others before themselves. It's a lesson I learned in the front row of my own home growing up, and for that I am forever blessed."

Jim M. LaHurd
President and General Manager
P&G Philippines

"The greatest lesson I learned from my mother is always to believe in yourself, that no matter how hard it may seem, you can always achieve great things in life, as long as they serve God and benefit all involved. I have always carried this with me throughout my life so far, and always try to live up to my mother's expectations, as I know although she is not physically here on earth, she is always watching over me and my family. Happy Mothers' Day to the greatest mother who ever lived."

Marilyn C.B. Aliya
Feng Shui Expert and CEO, World of Feng Shui

We've kept our promise so you can keep yours.

At Anvaya Cove, an infinite summer is a promise worth keeping. A breathtaking backdrop for your leisure hours, nature reaches out to envelop your family in all its splendor. There are neighborhood lots where you can build from the ground up or homes you learn to or to put together. Either way, choose your own refuge with a view—magnificent mountains, shimmering sea, or serene greenery. And with the Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club set in place, a heroism of ambition makes for time well spent with your family. Pack a breakfast basket and have a picnic at the park. Uncover the secrets of forest life. Go fly kites on the Great Lawn or grab a quick bite at the Pandakan Bar and Grille. Over a home-cooked dinner, share stories of the discoveries on the Nature Trek. Here, endless days with loved ones create an infinite store of experiences and memories. It's time.

"At a very young age, I learned from my father (Andres R. Aguirre) the value and importance of earning for a decent living through hard work. Her life was an example in keeping family and unit together—through downsizing and bankruptcies [as Fernando, Pampanga."

Dr. Ray R. Aguirre
President and CEO
Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

"My mother sacrificed everything for me to get the quality education that she firmly believed I deserved. The values and sensitivities she remained with me to this day and I am now passing that on to my children."

Claire Nelson
Managing Director
Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc.

"The lessons I learned from my mother (Minda Chua Tiatauco) was self-sacrifice. She sacrificed everything for her children. She sacrificed her time, even her life, for her kids. I remember that my mother was pregnant with, in the midst of American bombings, ran out of our bug-out shelter to get my young sister who was left in the house and quickly back into the bug-out. I will not be what I am today if not for my mother."

Ellencon T. Benito Jr.
President
Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology

"There are great lessons I learned from my mother (Remedios) as a young boy. First, she inculcated in me the belief that, you can be a real success if you love and fear God. She constantly told me to be religious. She always brought me along on actual church services which became part of my current up to this date.

"Second, she asked me to be disciplined. Often she told me that without discipline, there will be no progress in life.

"Third, my mother required from me the highest degree of honesty. She said that honesty is anchored on truth. The first requirement of honesty is to be honest with yourself."

Elmer Leriza
President and CEO
Zuvreal Plans Inc.

"My mom-fond Justiz Lio was a model Christian woman. She feared God, loved Jesus, and joyfully read the Bible every day. She was the heroine of everyday mundane things, laughed very easily, didn't say negative things about others and was never grouchy. She was always 'home' for the children, never answered back my father, and always quietly supported my father in all his endeavors. She was blessed with 96 healthy years, and was practically octogenarian for 16 years, leaving seven children and enjoying the love, respect and welcome of friends and relatives anywhere."

Dr. Andrew Lizares
Co-Founder and Vice Chair
Clayton Group of Companies

"As early as my elementary school days, my Mom (Amelee Sam Lenaco Luciano) guided me and my four siblings. What amazed me most—even when she was already in the judiciary—she managed to perform the multitasks of attending to the needs of the family, and yet she stayed awake late nights, or woke up at 3 a.m. to do her three-decades of prayer and daily Mass. It is from my Mom that I and my siblings learned the value of work, discipline, and the strong sense of responsibility toward family and community, while living as devout Catholics."

Victor Luciano
President
Clark International Airport

"My mother (Amelia Ilustrisimo) was a very simple and she has taught me to pray and keep the faith. I will always admire her contentment to God and family."

Ayoko Ilustrisimo
President of Golfbreeks
Plaza Kitchen Global
Restaurant Concepts Inc.)

"Ever since I can remember, my mother always went out of her way to help others in need. She was always ready to run to the aid of family and friends. Some just needed an ear, others a shoulder to cry on...she was always there for them."

Joey Pujol
President of Kawayan Cove (Edge Properties Inc.)

PNB

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pedro Gil cor. Sta. Ana, Manila, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 24, 2008
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2008 and Update on the Progress of the Merger of PNB with Allied Bank
5. Approval of the 2008 Annual Report
6. Approval of the following Amendments to the PNB Amended By-Laws:
   a. Article II – Board of Directors, Section 11. Composition. The direction and control of the business, affairs and management of the Bank and the preservation of its assets and properties, shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of fifteen (15) members duly elected as herein provided.
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2008 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as the resolutions of the Board of Directors from June 25, 2008 are available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

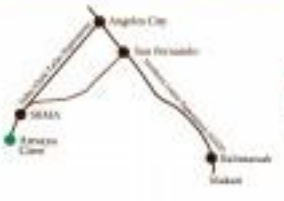
Only stockholders of record as of April 27, 2009 will be entitled to notice and vote and for attendance during the meeting. Registration will begin at 8:00 o'clock a.m. on May 26, 2009.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2009. Any proxies received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 21, 2009, 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, April 21, 2009

RENATO L. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

AyalaLandPREMIER



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Sunday BIZ

Why dreams don't take flight

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

MOST OF US NEVER SEE OUR DREAMS come true. Instead of soaring through the clouds, our dreams languish like a broken-down airplane confined to its hangar.

Through life, I have come to vibrantly live common reasons why dreams don't take flight:

1. We have been discouraged from dreaming by others.

We have to pilot our own dreams. We cannot entrust them to anyone else. People who aren't following their own dreams excel at pointing out. Such people feel inadequate when we succeed, so they try to drag us down.

If we listen to external voices, then we allow our dreams to be hijacked. At some point, other people will place limitations on us by doubting our abilities. When surrounded by the turbulence of criticism, we have to grasp the controls tightly to keep from being knocked off course.

2. We are hindered by past disappointments and losses.

In the movie Top Gun, Tom Cruise plays Maverick, a young, talented and cocky aviator who dreams of being the premier pilot in the US navy. In the film's opening scenes, Maverick's classmate Mic Flying Ability but of, so displays a knack for pushing the envelope with regards to safety. Midway through the movie, Maverick's classmates aggressive spells disaster. His plane crashes, killing his best friend and co-pilot.

Although cleared of wrongdoing, the painful memory of the accident haunts Maverick. He quits taking risks and loses his edge. Struggling to regain his poise, he considers giving up on his dreams. Although the incident nearly wrecks Maverick's career, he eventually reaches rock-bottom to find the strength to return to the sky.

Like Maverick, many of us live with the memory of failure embedded in our psyche. Perhaps a business we entered went broke, or we were fired from a position of leadership. Disappointment is the gap that exists between expectation and reality and all of us have encountered that gap.

Failure is a necessary and natural part of life, but if we're going to attain our dreams, then, like Maverick, we have to overcome the courage-limit with past hurts.

3. We fall into the habit of settling for average.

Average is the enemy for a reason. Being exceptional demands extra effort, sustained inspiration and unwavering discipline. When we attempt to give flight to our dreams, we have to overcome the weight of oppression. Like gravity, life's circumstances constantly pull on our dreams, tugging us down to mediocrity.

Most of us don't pay the price to overcome the opposition to our dreams. We may start out inspired, but through time we fatigue. Although we're intending to abandon our dreams, we begin to make concessions here and there. Through time, our lives become mundane, and our dreams slip away.

4. We lack the confidence needed to pursue our dreams.

Dreams are fragile. They will be bombarded by assaults from all sides. As such, they must be supplied with the core strength of self-confidence.

In Aurelio Baldor's day, women were not supposed to be pilots. If she had lacked self-assurance, she never would have even attempted to be a pilot. In usual, Earhart confidently cleared after her dream, and she was rewarded with both fulfillment and fame.

5. We lack the imagination to dream.

For thousands of years, mankind traveled along the ground by foot, by horse and buggy by locomotive, and eventually by automobile. Thanks to the dreams of Orville and Wilbur Wright, we now top motor vessels in a matter of hours. The imaginative brothers overcame obstacle and doubt to pioneer human flight, and the world has never been the same.

Many of us play small because we do not allow ourselves to dream. We trap ourselves in reality and never dare to go beyond what we can see with our eyes. Imagination lifts us beyond average by giving us a vision of life that surpasses what we are experiencing currently. Dreams infuse our spirit with energy and open us to greatness.

John Maxwell is coming back to Manila. Attend The 2009 John Maxwell Leadership Summit: *Leading in Challenging Times at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel on June 25,2009. Call (02) 687-2834/(0917) 8011110 or 813-2372 to book your seats.*

ARTIST'S perspective of DMCI Homes' Mahogany Place III clubhouse with pool in Tagaytay City.

DMCI cements hold on market for condos

ALFREDO A. Asuncion, Managing Director (MD) Homes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A DECADE AFTER MAKING THAT BIG LEAP from just building homes and condominiums to marketing and selling them, the company heading the portfolio of Doctor M. Consunji has cemented itself as a force to reckon with in the real estate business.

Since making the crossover to 1999, (Metro Homes has built and sold 12,000 housing units, of which more than 60 percent are luxury-themed, mid-rise projects at the fringes of the metropolis' financial centers.

DMCI Homes has 13 projects in the pipeline this year, which will make 2,800 units available for sale—mostly in the P1.5 million to P2.5 million price range.

"People appreciated our efforts to come up with well-built, good-looking homes and condominiums that fit right into the low to upper middle class market [those that could pay between P2 million and P3 million per unit]," said Alfredo R. Asuncio, Managing Director of DMCI Homes. "We have made our passion to build and this helped us stand out from the crowd."

Taking advantage

There have been other construction firms that also took the real estate development path, but only DMCI Homes was able to take full advantage of its strengths in engineering and construction to become one of the industry's big boys.

"Our boss has always told us there was no point in staying in a business if we are not the best in what we are doing. This drive towards excellence has served us well," said Asuncio.

DM Consunji Inc. did not look at property developments as just a sideline to keep its engineering and construction divisions busy after being killed by the property bust in 1998. It looked at it as a money spinner.

As property division was named DMCI Homes because it wanted to attract buyers who look at its products as something they would care to live in and not just to invest in.

"This is why all of its mid-rise projects are enclosed in gated communities, which render the security and privacy found in residential housing subdivisions, 40 percent of their projects' footprints are open-air green spaces and recreation areas with Bali- and Thai-inspired resort themes. The structures are just five stories high, up to 16 units in a floor and its products are usually sold on RFO or ready for occupancy basis. Its first project was Lake View Mansion in Tagaytay City. It was an instant hit but an eye opener as well.

"We built it to fit the budget of a regular office worker, so we kept the features and unit sizes smaller. We never anticipated the kind of out buyers were spending to upgrade their units and the parking lot was filled with late model vehicles. We felt this was a market that was under the radar of property developers," said Asuncio.

Sales surge

In the second wave of its mid-rise projects from the Hampstead Gardens in 2001 to East Ortigas Mansions in 2003 to Mayfield Park in 2004), DMCI saw its sales surge to record levels reminiscent of the real estate boom in the 1990s (the company averaged 98 to 100 units per project each month).

But even if DMCI Homes has apparently hit its groove in the business, Asuncio said the company continued to look for ways to improve its performance by conducting regular surveys of current clients and prospective buyers to make sure if they were doing things the right way.

"Our engineering pedigree gives us a different mindset in approaching the business. We give priority to workmanship and customer satisfaction over prices and revenue," said Asuncio who cited DMCI's landmark projects notably the CCP complex, Manila Shangri-La Hotel in Cebu and the Intramuros Palace in Bacolod.

DMCI Homes out home with its next wave of projects—three Garden Condominiums in Paranaque (2008); Rosewood Palace in Tagaig (2008); Riverfront Residences in Pasig (2007); and Royal Palm Residences in Tagaig (2008)...that have raised the bar for other property developers.

Online marketing

Aside from the building, Asuncio said DMCI Homes also took pains to make its projects as transparent and accessible to buyers through the Internet.

It is arguably the first real estate developer to release floor plans, building dimensions and designs, prices and financing schemes are available on the web.

"We've always believed that keeping access from buyers is no way to do business. Buyers should know and get what they paid for," said Asuncio.

Asuncio said the company has perfected its craft with many buyers immediately associating resort-themed, mid-rise building communities with DMCI Homes, even though other older real estate firms have since taken the same route.

What would have garnered that membership with built chicken houses for the Bureau of Animal Industry would end up as the trendiest in resort-inspired homes for middle class Filipinos?

MAGNOLIA Place in Quezon City

HIMLAYANG PILIPINO PLANS, INC.

TRIUMPH BUILDING, 1610 QUEZON AVENUE, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA

NOTICE TO OUR MEMORIAL LIFE PLANHOLDERS

In response to your numerous queries that we have been receiving, we would like to inform all of you of the following:

1. Our Life Plan is a Fixed-Value plan.

2. Benefits are covered both by:
   a. Insurance with a leading and independent insurance carrier; and,
   b. Trust Funds deposited and managed by an independent trustee bank.

3. As of December 31, 2008, Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc. showed capital sufficiency based on its audited Financial Statements as of the same period. The combined Trust Funds for Life Plans are adequate and in excess based on the annual Actuarial Valuation Report as of December 31, 2008 duly certified by an independent actuary accredited with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Further, the Trust Funds for Life Plans have been consistently in net excess status over the past four (4) years.

4. Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc. has promptly settled all valid and rightful claims. The Company has no record of any unpaid rightful claim.

Please await our standard Advisory Letters which shall be individually sent to all of you.

We hope this Notice has sufficiently addressed your concerns.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

EXCLUSIVE

'If there was a report card on singlehood, I'd be summa cum laude'

Korina Sanchez talks about THE relationship

AMONG THE SEIZURES IN recent weeks was the engagement of Sen. Mar Roxas and Korina Sanchez—antithematic to some, but still thrilling to many. The Datasan couple have learned to live with the tsismis that come with their full-blown existence.

He for all their relentless exposure, there's a private side to each one that has remained private. This is especially true in the case of Sanchez who, despite a long career before the TV camera, remains a typecast image in the eyes of many—a feisty, driven broadcaster. Few really know her inner persona. Fewer still know what she truly feels and thinks.

For the first time, she bares her thoughts and feelings—as a woman in love, yet still fiercely independent.

After the whole country has seen your engagement announced on TV, how do you feel? Also, about the rings (at once) like?

Honestly, I feel a bit disembodied. Mine and I know we were headed in this direction, but my work has always had the lion's share of my time and thoughts, so I hadn't and still haven't prepared myself enough for this. Mine and I talked about it, but are only spoke of our feelings, our decision, what lay ahead—not the attention it would necessarily generate. And definitely not in the now way. While the villains are pulsating with

SANCHEZ: "Once you've learned to deal with and even enjoy solitude, you may start sharing your life with someone."

flowers and, when they poured away guided and supported my family. I've invested my life into my work and have done public service. I've traveled. I've solved my own problems. I've maintained. I've put faith through school. I've relied on myself quite a while. If there was a report card on singlehood, I'd be awarded summa cum laude.

Now, it's time to have someone to share my life with. To relax a bit. To know and be assured I don't have to be alone.

Were you like type of woman who has always thought marriage is for her? Or did you see it as just one of the options that you could live without a man or husband?

I have always been in love with my neighborhood. Life can be complete without having to be tied down. As early as 16, I knew how valuable time and energy, exploration and discovery were. Like many young women, I had my phase of obsession with marriage—the wedding, the perfect gown, cake and all that. I've way past that daydreaming, as I am also past the nagging desire to solicit acceptance or validation.

But that I think marriage is some rite of passage to attract a man is. Many women have this selling early. It's a beautiful thing to be so in love. But many women also do get married to somehow escape, validate oneself, maybe kill their boredom. Maybe it took me this long to be certain I wasn't getting into it for the wrong reasons.

(The first 18 months of shots shouldn't be the reason to get married. I think it is developing a healthy, emotional self-sufficiency that makes you more visible as a partner. Once you've learned to deal with and even enjoy solitude, you may start sharing your life with someone.

Yes, marriage is for an option. Yes, a man is optional. Up to the moment Mar asked me, my plans had always been a life without a man in it. But, as you now all know, my plans have happily changed.

You've always believed in positive thinking, good vibes—like how you gifted friends with good vibes bead bracelets/necklaces or rose quartz for romance. Is Summer Mar the result of your positive imaging?

Ha ha ha, well, you might say that. I'm romantic in a sense that I don't go looking or searching. I've always believed love comes for me will come in one or that I will stumble upon it. I'm not sure if it's something I would recommend to my own daughter, though. It could be tricky.

One day I prayed...for the first time that

'If there was a report card . . .

Turn page C3

kind of prayer—and said, 'Just bind us one the case I should be with. I've never been picky. But could be by this and this and this and this?" It's uncanny that, not very long after, Mar started to call again after not hearing from him for a year. So maybe the star-spawn brouhaha helped with the vibes—but I'm sure it was the prayer. Ask, believe and you shall receive.

Can you again describe the moment of his marriage proposal?

I'm reserving the details of all that for a time when we're flipped what steps for us and what are one-knees, okay?

What of your wedding plans (an you reveal? Will it be a city wedding in November? Pepito Albert?

There are, honestly, no details yet. Maybe more than I will be an issue from work to ABS-CBN News, although will still be in the magazine shots. "Stand 8," I will find the time to sit down and catch up on myself, on Mar, on everyone else and everything that needs to be planned.

Are you very fulfilled now as a woman?

You mean after being proposed marriage to? I hope you didn't mean that. A woman grows it to herself and to everyone around her to nourish and grow and be productive on her own without having to cling on to the idea of a man "completing" her.

Fulfillment is a by-product of selflessness. And a woman can be selfless in so many ways. A woman's capacity to care, love, nurture and sacrifice is oftentimes boundless and can be directed towards family, work, men, no advocacy, a cause, marginalized people.

Even without having to be married, yes, I am fulfilled.

What would you say are the top three factors that made your relationship last?

Most of my relationships have been long ones—an average of four to seven years at a time. When I am serious in a relationship, breaking up for whatever reason is never on top of the menu. It has always been compromising and getting past the emotions so that issues can be resolved. logically sorted out before coming to any decision or course of action. I've never been one to enter a movie house and immediately look for the nearest exit.

I'm the type who will help fight for the other man except it.

Number three must be the respect evident between us. My respect for him is most important. I respect him because he is disciplined in areas I am still working on. I respect him because he is a genuine family man with simple joys. I respect him because he is true to himself and to others. I respect him because he's smart. He has class so much for this country and for the poor Filipinos. He has not made a single decision because of his positions of power. That has got to command anyone's respect. Except the thieves, of course.

What made you commit your life to him? He's not your first boyfriend, nor are you his first girlfriend. Both of you have had mature relationships, yet what is it about him—and the man of you regrets—that made you choose him as lifelong partner? And what made him commit to you? He's been chasing.

Fine, well, I love him and am in love with him. Mar and I are alike and different in many ways. Our similarities make life much less complicated and our differences complement each other. Mar is family-oriented. He has simple joys. He is a homebody. He has a love of history. He is thorough. He applies excellence in a good work children. These are some of what we have in common. Meantime, while he is a consumer of habit, I am less predictable. He values security while I am more adventurous. He always measures the downside while I am eternally, sometimes carelessly, optimistic. These are differences we have found to complement each other for a happy and productive compromise in many situations.

Neither of us think I am perfect. But I see that Mar is as willing as I am to stay together and that whatever hurdles come our way there will always be a reasonable reaction and a corresponding solution. I also have to say that I never nag. It's a fortunate by-product of having my own priorities at work systems, having both grown well into our respective fields.

Oh, we used to quarrel about who has control over the TV remote control. Until I installed a separate TV with a matching headset in his space. We then realized it's no fun watching TV separately because it was precisely when watching time. We've since learned to agree on a TV show we would both enjoy.

What are your three most memorable moments together?

Hmmm . . . there are many that I will always remember our first time to New York. We wandered a lovely, intimate show of the legendary Bobby Short and his pianos at the Hotel Carlyle. We had a late walk back home, until it rained and we laughed and ran for cover—very romantic.

I remember our one of many outdoor dates with him—we did a tour of Arsenio Center and he had to passionately defend in my edsy Flavio Carvalho had to go. I knew his resume and views would, by now, be changing in their state reading this, but his, but it was very romantic to me.

Oh, and of course, the time I swallowed a handful of vitamins all at once, choked on them, and I swore he did his darnest mix-matching Ferrebo's on me until I coughed up the pills. Very very romantic. But he saved my life, ha ha ha!

How about you as a woman and person—what are top three defining moments in your life?

Again, there are many. Each accident, big or small, molds who I am. Each time I survive one, whatever tragedy strikes—like when I lost my younger brother Ramon to leukemia...he was only 19—or when both my parents died months apart from each other in 2006, or when a friend me off with my hand-carried money, it has told me I'm not so special as to be exempt from my share of life's misfortune.

But the same have also told me I am special enough to be called to action, to stand from where I fall and to get better at it.

After my parents died, I had to take charge of the family and really oversight. I now have to want children and grandchildren. They think I worry and don't on them, but I do it anyway. I promised my parents.

I've had very public challenges in my colorful career as well. Our News Chief Ging Reyes publicly mistreats at one point. But I stood my ground—as I still do whenever I believe I have to go against the tide. It wasn't easy. But it's do it all over again.

Still you quit ABS-CBN or just go on leave? What sort of counselling will you do?

I am officially on leave as I concentrate on preparing for the wedding—I will never get used to the word, ha ha! If and when time decides and declares his candidacy, then the leave will be indefinite. I am taking a leave from TV news and radio commentary which are both daily at opposite ends of the day. The schedule is killing me but I love the work.

In a big way I can look forward to getting eight hours of sleep again.

I promised Ted, though, that I would do one last event with him on HOMO when he returns from his leave. I agree he will need "someone to talk to" so—as as he adjusts back into the post.

Happily, I will remain my hands-on prime time magazine program, "BalitaNG."

Regarding campaigning, maybe it's best to answer that question if and when Mar declares. ABS-CBN management has been very understanding of my requests.

Should circumstances permit, ABS-CBN has told me I can always go back to my platforms.

Also, me and will always be a journalist—do you honestly see a conflict between your profession and the political ambitions of your fiance? How do you handle it?

A conflict only arises if I cover Mar as a journalist. I've never covered him nor have I or anyone influenced the ABS-CBN coverage of him.

There will always be opinions either way. I am considerate of opinions especially from those whom I respect. But I have also been under a microscope and I know better than to jump at every naysayer's comment.

Mar and I fall in love and the public knows we've been together for the past five years and are now engaged. It so happens we are both prominent in our fields. We cannot avoid the interest nor the attention. What has to be known by the public about us is transparent. What we do try to do is maintain the dignity of our relationship.

With or without Mar having a higher political ambition, it has been my ethos not to do any secrecy concerning him, nor have I ever used my platforms to help further his political ambitions.

My partner in radio, Ted Failon, has been with me the 2001 to—when he or the show's producer wants to interview him, I leave the booth or I deliberately do not participate in the discussion at all.

In my other capacity as reporter and news anchor, I do not cover Mar. I do not have anything to do with the story lineup. The Ethics Code of ABS-CBN News is quite strict and I adhere to it completely.

Should circumstances permit, ABS-CBN has told me I can always go back to my platforms.

Also, me and will always be a journalist—do you honestly see a conflict between your profession and the political ambitions of your fiance? How do you handle it?

A conflict only arises if I cover Mar as a journalist. I've never covered him nor have I or anyone influenced the ABS-CBN coverage of him.

There will always be opinions either way. I am considerate of opinions especially from those whom I respect. But I have also been under a microscope and I know better than to jump at every naysayer's comment.

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What kind of First Lady do you think will you be? Gloria-esque yet with respect Ellie Estrada, practical like Ming Ramos? Do you have a First Lady in you? Like Jackie O?

So I will not be misconstrued as presumptuous, maybe it is best you ask me again if and when Mar does declare his intentions to run for the presidency.

How are your relations with Mar's family?

His comes from a family who are grounded, intelligent, funny and fun, charitable, kind, friendly and loving. His sister Rita and her husband Gary and their kids are very accommodating—in our

May is month of Mary and Marian miracles

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcenas

IN 1998, IN BARANGAY SEMALA OF Sibonga, southern Cebu, there was an outbreak of dengue. More than 100 people were infected. The people in the area held a rosary crusade at the chapel where Our Lady of Fatima is enshrined to ask for the Blessed Mother's help.

The town was saved and the people are blessed it in the divine intervention of the Holy Mother.

Later, the statue of the Blessed Mother died twice on Aug. 17 and 31, Sept. 8, Oct. 13 and Dec. 20. Then it died again twice on Sept. 8, 1999, the birthday of the Blessed Mother, and once recently on Sept. 8, 2007. Thousands witnessed the event.

Marcelo Teves of Dumaguete was diagnosed with cancer of the spine with the CT scan showing that the tumor had metastasized to his lungs.

After my surgery, I had three radiation and chemotherapy," Marcelo says. "My niece told me about Mama Mary of Sibonga, so after my treatments I repeatedly visited her to pray and ask for her intercession. I know that Our Lord will not deny His Holy Mother's petition!"

After a few months, Marcelo had a CT scan and his doctor was pleased with the results, but he wanted to make sure by doing another CT scan after two months. The result was amazing. "The tumors in the lungs were gone," says Marcelo, "so if a hated ball game inside my lungs to pull the tumors out."

Marcelo says, "I know that it was through Mama Mary that I was healed. Praise the Lord."

Today, one can see no one side of the church wheelchairs and walkers left by people who have been helped and cured. Written testimonies are just up on the wall.

Virgen de las Remedios

Devotees of Virgen de las Remedios, patroness of Pateros, will gather at Barangay Poblacion San Fernando on May 10 for the fiesta of Virgen de las Remedios. Fr. Alfredo David, parish priest, will lead in the Masses at 7, 8:30 and 5 a.m. Archbishop Rodolfo Antonio will celebrate Mass at 6:30 p.m.

In San Angeles, Pampanga, Catherina residents will gather at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

Our Lady of Bigkong Awa

Boac, Marinduque, is the center of the celebration of Our Lady of Bigkong Awa, patroness of the province, whose feast is being held today. History relates that the Virgin drove away the traveling Moros from the town.

The image of the Virgin was excavated in the façade of the church of the Immaculate Conception. Today, a shrine stands beside the church where pilgrims can drop by to pray and offer flowers.

Our Lady of Bigkong Awa Foundation honors the Virgin with its many projects, such as supporting seminarians in their studies and helping poor children go to school. The new president is Lin Fedrosa Hidalgo.

Devotees in Manila can go to Holy Family Parish in Mindoro Selva, Bonao Dist. 4102.

Ermita's Nuestra Señora de Guia

Ermita Church begins the nine-day novena to Nuestra Señora de Guia today at 6 p.m. Fiesta is on May 19.

Considered the oldest Marian image in the Philippines, the Virgin, who is also called Our Lady of Guidance, is often compared with Our Lady of Antipolo or Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje, in the sense that members go in line to pray for safe travel or the procurement of wives, especially US visas. It is one's sense coincidental that the church is across the US Embassy from where visa applicants would go to say thank you to her.

Class reunion

Mabalacat Batch '79 of Mariltes Central School in Mariltes, Bataan, is holding a class reunion on May 16 at 3 p.m. at the multipurpose hall of the school. For more info, see Conrado Silvestre at 0908-8313-933 or Wanie Reyesmeki at 0905-2554521.

Concordia told me that he and his classmates went to Mass at the St. Michael Parish. He said the image of St. Michael is very miraculous.

VIRGEN de las Remedios at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles on Sept. 7, 2008

Marian graces

The Second Vatican Council, in its "Lumen Gentium," recommends prayers to the Mother of God, "that she, who aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers, may now, exalted as she is above the angels and the saints, intercede before her Son in the fellowship of all saints."

Birth centenary of Fatima seers

During the week of the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13, the Catholic church will mark the birth centenary of Blessed Francisco Marto and Blessed Jacinta Blanco. I was blessed to have been able to pray before their tombs in the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Healing Mass

Fr. Nelson Nuevo, OSJ, will hold a Healing Mass at the Megastore, Mercedes Ave., in Ugong, Pasig, on May 13 at 5:30 p.m., feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The public is invited.

Treat Mom to a Pizza Hut special today

All Mothers deserve only the best today. She truly deserves to receive something back in return for all the love, care, tenderness and joy she has given us.

Make her feel thanked and loved today, on her special day, by treating her to a special pizza at Pizza Hut, the famous pizza restaurant that has prepared something truly special for Mothers today.

Affordable treats for families include the new Viva Lasagna pizza, a rich combination of two Italian-inspired favorites: Lasagna on a pizza and Pizza Hut's freshly baked Viva crust.

Boasting of an authentic Italian taste combined with the softness of pizza crust, the new Viva Lasagna pizza is made richly delicious by thick layer of beef, cheese and soft lasagna strips on Pizza Hut's freshly baked crust.

The new Pizza Hut offering will make Mothers enjoy pure bliss aside from experiencing the warmth of family get-togethers.

Also, mothers will get a FREE Pizza Hut 'Eco Shopping Bag that will be given away for every minimum P800 dine-in purchase in all Pizza Hut outlets.

So make Moms experience a Mother's Day like no other-give her a treat at Pizza Hut.

5 lessons I learned from my mom, Caridad Sanchez

CHILDHOOD another action-packed day

WE LEARN BEST BY WATCHING, listening and observing. Here are some lessons I learned from my mother:

1. Family comes first.

Mom had a full-time career when she met my dad and she did not stop working throughout her marriage. When she chose to do, upon my father's request, was to slow down on her career. And so in the years my brother and I were in elementary school, she stopped making movies and concentrated on doing television instead. These were years, I believe, when she produced some of her best work in comedy and drama. Mother remembered the art of work-home balance long before the term was coined.

I remember how she would take us to and from school every day. Her presence in the house provided an stability especially when our father passed away. He was the ultimate family man and as mom just followed his lead. Both were very hands-on in an age when child-rearing was often just left to the mother. Perhaps it was also because my mother certainly wouldn't see have opted to hang the sole caretaker of her children. Thus, I had no question in my mind whatsoever that when I would have a family of my own, my family would always come first.

2. Fight for what you believe in but choose your battles wisely.

Mom is one of the most courageous women I know. I have witnessed her truly speak her mind out. She ventured to Manila to follow her heart (a boyfriend, actually) and ended up with a broken heart. Never to dwell on it for long, she stayed in Manila and pursued a career in show business. She has been at it for almost 50 years now. "Courage will get you where you want to go but you have to choose your battles wisely," she would often tell me. "Minding management and/or [my wife Lorna] labor ng loob." It was from mom that I learned how to be an eternal optimist, to speak up when I think a wrong has been done, to find the silver lining, but to also just keep quiet and pray it away when the battle isn't worth fighting.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Jathon-Gabaldo

My mom's foremost rule: Family comes first

3. Choose but don't lose yourself.

Unknown to many, my mother lived up to St. Paul's instruction: "Wives, submit to your husbands..." but she did so by keeping her individuality. My dad always had the last word but I would say that in many ways, my mother continued to be her own person. It's a good thing my father was one of the most secure persons, or he did not mind the public separation at times. He encouraged genuine and fully supportive of her dreams, and she showed him her gratitude by attending to his needs. (Dad could be difficult at few times, but mom had her way of seeing things at home. When he died, it was as if she had lost her anchor, but in time, she got her bearings and devoted her years to us and her child. Her resiliency, she admitted, in part, to the fact that she was able to keep a life of her own, amid her devotion to dad and us.

4. It's never too late to get fit. Stay natural.

A few years before my father passed away, mom started running. She was already in her early 60s when she would go off early in the morning to run. "Running runs when helped keep me sane after your dad died," she'd tell me back then. My mother had the best legs on the block and could outrun any man. In her 50s, she had legs that would put any 20-year-old to shame. Now that I am her age when she first started running, her dependence and example give me hope and passion to be more fitness-conscious. Did the big 5-0 bother me when it hit? Not like the hills of my village effortlessly like age will forever be a national secret, but I never cease to marvel at, and thank the Lord for, how fit she still is.

Mom has stuck to the same cleansing and moisturizing technique for the last 35 years and her face has not been overblown by the years. "My lines are my battle scars and so I wear them proudly. They give me character and tell many stories," she explains. "Stick with what works and just change once in a while," she says of the products that have helped maintain her smooth, olive skin. My father would often joke that sleeping with mom was like sleeping with a box of watermelons. Coconut oil has been mom's best friend all these years.

5. God is all you need.

Mom has been through a lot. She says it has been her faith in God and his grace that has seen her through. "Wala nang iba, siya lang sobra," is how mom likes to put it, through good times and bad. "Father to the fatherless," she likes to say, in reference to the Biblical passage on how God favors widows and orphans. Her example have shown me time and again to always put Him first.

Although I'd like to think I am more my father's daughter in many ways, I also believe that I would not be the woman I am today if not for my mother. Support and care I have in abundance. I only had dad for 16 years but in that span, he taught me lessons I carry to this day. Mom raised us single-handedly and continues to mother us to her unique way. However, as I grow older, I see more and more of her in me. Hey, who wouldn't want to have gorgeous skin and drop-dead legs at 60? I love you, mom! Happy Mother's Day!

E-mail the author at cathy-bathon@gmail.com.

Bonifacio Global City's Kids Camp is packed with fun activities – from cooking and bag designing to arts and crafts and a yo-yo workshop

Cooking for Kids with Margarita Forés

What: Restaurateur and chef Margarita Forés will teach kids the basics of cooking.

When: May 18, 1 p.m.

Why your kids will love it: This session will both be educational and exhilarating for kids who love food.

Why it's good for them: An afternoon spent whipping up goodies might just inspire your little chefs to take the leap into the food industry in the future.

Jenina Arenas Alonso (left) and Margarita Forés

Bag Design & Fashion Sketching

What: Bag designer and founder of the School of Fashion and the Arts Arnina Arenas Alonso will teach kids how to design bags and make fashion sketches. Arenas said, "It's really a hands-on activity for the kids. The kids will be given an instructional flat they can use to make their own bags. They will assemble and embellish it. Di Gonzalez, who was in Project Runway, will demo and teach the kids how to make fashion sketches. Students from GIFA will also be there to help the kids."

When: May 17, 4 p.m.

Why your kids will love it: Your little fashionista will enjoy an afternoon of style and fashion and will get to meet someone who has a made a career out of her passion. "Kids like to work with their hands. They will have fun exploring their fashion side," Arenas said.

Why it's good for them: This workshop will help them discover another outlet for creativity and tap their potential for style and love for fashion.

Creative camp for the little ones

By Pam Pastor

THANKS to Bonifacio Global City, your kids can now say goodbye to a boring summer. As the Home of Passionate minds, Bonifacio Global City (BGC) aims to nurture passion and creativity in people of all ages.

This is the reason behind the Fascinated @ BGC, a festival that encourages people to create, discover and celebrate different facets of life.

Bonifacio Global City's Kids Camp is part of Fascinated. For the next two weekends (5 to 8 May at Bonifacio High Street's open-air festivity Area, Kids Camp is packed with fun and educational activities - from cooking and bag designing to arts and crafts and a yo-yo workshop. Kids will enjoy learning new things away from the classroom and the chance to unleash their creativity and discover new passions.

Getting your kids to participate in the Kids Camp is easy. Pre-registration is ongoing until May 24 at Hobbes & Landes and at the Take A Market. All you need is a minimum P1,000 purchase (single or accumulated receipts) from either store.

If you are unable to pre-register but would still like to bring your kids to the workshops, open registration will take place on the day of the sessions – all you need is a minimum P1,000 purchase (single or accumulated receipts) from any store in Bonifacio High Street on that day.

The earlier you register, the better – there are limited slots per session.

For inquiries, please call tel number 8560331 or visit www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph.

These are the five sessions of Kids Camp. Ten good reasons for your kids to put down their favorite video games:

Tie-Dye & Yo-Yo Workshop

What: Anna Dalisdal, Bianca Esguerra and Stella Lopez from The Art School for Kids (TASK) will be teaching children how to tie-dye their own shirts. The three, who are currently taking a summer workshop at Hobbes & Landes, also intend to teach children how to make fun and festive masks. Children are encouraged to bring shirts they want to tie-dye during the workshop. The Yo-Yo Workshop will be held on the same day. Sponsored by Hobbes & Landes and conducted by the double-store of Active People (an avant-

YO-YO fun

winning toy brand that produces yo-yos in Tantan Saab), the yo-yo workshop will feature demonstrations, tips and tricks and the chance for kids to give the toys a whirl. Parents can bring their own yo-yos or they can also buy them from Hobbes & Landes.

When: May 23, 4 pm

Why your kids will love it: The tie-dye session will give them the thrill of creating something they can wear while the yo-yo workshop will introduce them to the fun of playing with a toy they don't need to plug into a socket.

Why it's good for them: Tie-dye and making masks will unleash their creativity while playing with yo-yos can improve their motor skills.

MAYA LUPAC, Anna Dalisdal and Bianca Esguerra from TASK

TIE-DYED Shirts

Cooking for Kids by The Stock Market

What: Liana Tan Arcenas from Chef Mavic Philippines' Test Kitchen will be teaching children some basic but yummy recipes. Younger kids will be taught how to decorate cupcakes and make chocolate pops while older kids will cook their chicken with gravy. There will also be a cooking contest, awards, prizes and games.

When: May 24, 4 pm

Why your kids will love it: This time, they won't just get to eat but they'll get to make it.

Why it's good for them: Liana doesn't intend to stop at just teaching them how to cook, she will also give them lessons on organization in the

(FROM LEFT) The Stock Market's Donnie Ramirez, Lee Jose, Wendel Briones, Joy Tolosa and Liana Tan-Arcenas

kitchen. "We'll teach them about cleaning as they go and the importance of food safety," She adds. "These are recipes they can later on make with their mama."

Cartan Craft Workshop

FROM cartons to works of art

What: Sponsored by Tetra Pak, children will be taught how to turn used milk and juice cartons into toys and answering cartoon art materials.

When: May 24, 4 pm

Why your kids will love it: They will have fun creating something they can play with.

Why it's good for them: Not only does this workshop encourage creativity, it will teach them the value of recycling.

'If there was . . .

From page C3

what her late husband, former Sen. Ginty Novas, and her late son, Rep. Sloggy Novas, stood for, and she continues to shine her care for Cagsa.

While Inez's room is gregarious and strong, she is as well a lady kind and generous. We've had many engaging conversations about almost anything under the sun. She has eyes-really light up and she becomes most animated when she talks about her plantation and how she cherishes her livelihood as it gives women in Cagsa, about her managers, her 16 sun-more Assumptions, where she is very active, and, of course, her beloved Ginty.

The whole family is very close to each other. But they have made me feel welcomed and very much a part of them. I am happy to know them and honored to be with them.

What can we look out for in life?

Oh, you mean aside from those shoes Carrie Bradshaw was wearing in the movie? Hehe. In.

I am the sentence gardener. I can't go home after a vacation and think of new ways to encourage the customers. There's got to be something more to do, something productive, something helpful, something that will make someone smile, something for the future beyond my own life.

Sorry, I can't tell you how much life is given and followed and that I can't ask for more. Or while it has been a charmed run and I am indeed blessed beyond my dreams, as a seven-year-old I've long acknowledged, this life wouldn't be enough for all that I would want to do.

But what always tops my list is that what remains of my family will stay together happy and healthy. For my nephews and nieces to grow up to love life as I do. For me to have at least one child to release I can tell of my adventures and envy on those who've know all.

Yes, I love and myself to always find joy in what we do. And, who knows? I just might get to see the galaxy in a spaceship one day. Ask, believe and you shall receive.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

DIVING in Tubbataha with PGMA

Why being a mom rocks

TO ALL MOTHERS, LET'S enjoy our special day today unencumbered by people we love and cherish dearly. Yes! Mother's Day is a truly wonderful day when we can all honor the person that has given each of us unconditional love since the day we came here.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Last week, my little Athena turned four. She has brought so much joy and happiness in our family, although I know we spoil her a tad too much. To keep her busy for the summer, I got her into some fun classes at Bricklhouse Study Corner Golf (8737-3266/334) in Magallanes Center.

Teacher Mina Esguerra says Athena is doing great and will surely be ready for big school by June. Bricklhouse also does tutorials and study classes and is a great way to supplement schoolwork.

As a working mother with a full social calendar, it is difficult to have a young child. I'm lucky that my husband, Dennis, pitches in to keep Athena occupied while I

My little Athena has clearly picked up my flair for fancy outfits and accessories. Her birthday bash had a Fancy Nancy theme and was a sugar overload

1. Take sixty years of dedication to quality.

Our love for making the best-tasting ice cream may have gotten bigger, but it has never gotten old. From being a small ice cream parlor in Manila to becoming an ice cream brand loved by millions in the Philippines, we're finding better and better ways to make our ice cream even more delicious, just for you.

2. Combine a commitment to use only the best and freshest ingredients.

It's a promise we make each and every day: when it comes to the things that we love most, nothing but the best will do. With our Selecta Gold Series, for instance, we paired with three of Manila's most acclaimed chefs and scoured the world for the finest strawberries, hazelnuts, and chocolate truffles, to create a truly decadent ice cream experience.

3. Blend with passion for innovation.

We ask a lot if questions: Like, what if we could offer flavors no other ice cream has offered before? What if we could enjoy all of our favorite flavors for our birthdays? What if we could come up with a bon-dy-dandy pack that the whole family could enjoy? It's our passion for innovation that made us the first to introduce flavors like Cookies & Cream, Coffee Crumble, and Queso Real, as well as novel ideas like 3-in-1+1.

4. Never forget who comes first and foremost.

Be it the new Cornetto Coffee Caramel or the Vanilla Macaroon in Family Pack, each and every Selecta product begins with the one that inspires us to come up with the best and most delicious ice cream -- you.

5. Serve with a lot of love.

Here at Selecta, we believe that the creamiest, most delicious ice cream is made with lots of laughter and loads of love. If you've ever wondered why you start smiling at the sight of your favorite Selecta ice cream, now you know why.

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May 15 (Friday): 10AM to 9PM
May 16 (Saturday): 10AM to 10PM
May 17 (Sunday): 10AM to 9PM

CUTE cousins Mia Laurel, Chiara Imperial, Annika Valdes and Tara Imperial

WONDERFUL mom Jina Fernando and kids Jett, Jahsy and Jolla, with Sea Princess

BIRTHDAY girl Adriana Valdes with cute mates Mia and Sabra Lopez

KLEIVA Gutierrez's darling Loreen enjoying a cupcake

INTELLIBOOST Study Corner coaches Missy Siguenza and Arhana

Why being a mom rocks

From page D1

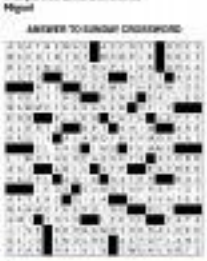
BABY round Elian with parents Ruffy and Pauline Juan

STYLISH friends Cricketa Tuvasco, Mark Higgins, Daphne Paez, designer Katrina Stedbaeve-Pelos

FUN SET Sandy Higgins, Chito Feir and Frances Lim

GOLDILOCKS baby model Adiz with parents Chino and Andrea Miguel

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



MEMBERS Only friends, Ely Fortea, Tim Yap, Camille Farinas-Mathay and Rhet Chanlaralchai

GOOD friends Sinbard Tio, Sea Princess and Patricia Romeo-Dee

PARTY friends Tessa Alindogan, Aimee Barreiro and Emilio Pelaez II

Hope bike tour

Both Bella and Jenna are great examples of multitasking moms who should be celebrated today. Jenna and I are part of the upcoming Tour of Hope Bike Tour from Mandaluyong to Camarines Sur this May 24-

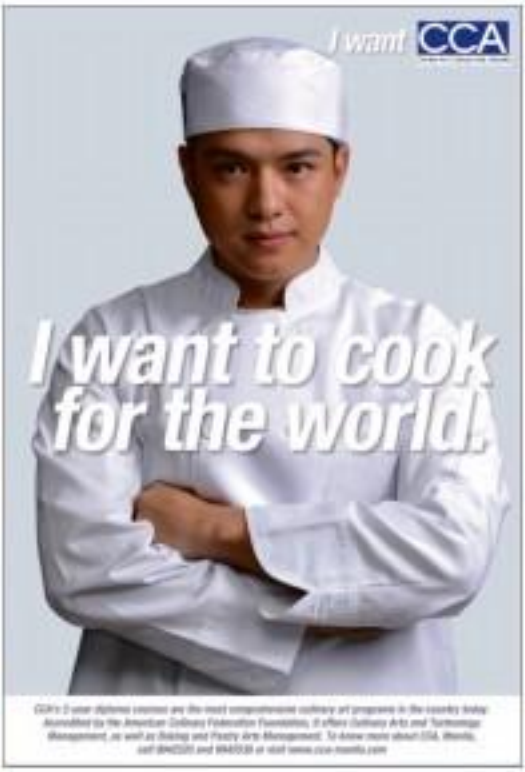
Architect's rendition of the Magnolia Residences

Reclaming Those *Sweet Bygone Days*

DIYMD group Marissa Florendo, Tini Lara, Liana Bautista, Digi Santos, Sea Princess, Mary de Leon, Getty Chiu, Ed Mejares and Jun-Jun Rallos

DIYMD Kabalatha Reel onboard DIY Oceana Maria Scuba with special guest PSPA and Palawan artist Joel Reyes

PSPA WITH expert staff of Oceana Maria Scuba



CCA's 2-year diploma courses are the most comprehensive culinary art programs in the country today. Accredited by the American Culinary Federation Foundation, it offers Culinary Arts and Technology Management, as well as Baking and Pastry Arts Management. To know more about CCA, Manila, call 8942320 and 8944018 or visit www.cca-manila.com

Bonifacio
ALASKA
Cook Out with MOM
at Bonifacio High Street
May 10, 2009 - 10 am onwards Activity Area

Supported by:
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Event Organizers
CREATIVE DETAILS and PLA EVENTS PLANNER

Chicken Enkantina served with Mes Grippings, fried Tomato & Pig Jam and Horseradish Cream, Mango Mojitos with Vanilla Bonce.

Surely all that will gain me extra points with my hubby and kids! Beggie also makes household cooks through her four-part Cookoria Series. We so need this because our cook's specialty is just chasing TV-777 for Shakey's delivery.

The better members to call are 928-9296 or 927-3008, to sign up for chef Beggie's classes. She has a new series starting soon called "The Hows and Whys of Cooking for Beginners." And to keep you motivated, Dr. Primrose Bonifacio, a developmental and behavioral pediatrician, will be talking about "The Well-nourished Child: A Behavioral and Nutritional Approach to Battling Childhood Food Issues." I will try and coach that so I know how to get Athena to eat more.

Spa treat for mothers

This blogger's month of May makes me think how great it is to be a mommy. At Urban Spa, moms get Time Out and pampered as well. For a minimum receipt of P5,000, clients get a Fish and Clique for Me at Fish & Co. Shangri-La. And to top it off, for every purchase of the Lobster Menu from Fish & Co. Shangri-La, the diners is entitled to a relaxing Express Chair Massage at Urban Spa. Call Urban Spa at 687-4195 to find out how to give your mom a well-deserved break!

Gowns for moms

For an even better mommy feeling, check out the Couture Christening Gowns of Katrina Gimillaware at Rustan's Makati's Children's Department. They are so adorable that it makes me think about wanting to be a new mom again! And that would be a great way to keep celebrating Mother's Day year after year after year!

E-mail the author at angelreyes@inquirer.com.ph.

Chikki and Gaby Cruz in Kalutandos

NELLIE Bengzon, Silvana Diaz, Nedy Tantoco, Ambassador to May of Cambodia, Marilou Alejandro and Mars Londoso

MORAY Chaplaka, Marilou Alejandro, Marites Tantoco-Enriquez, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. and Lina Paulini-Lorenzo

Philippine-Italian group launches book on modernist Diosdado Lorenzo

IN HONOR OF THE LATE DIOSDADO Lorenzo, one of the fathers of Philippine Modernism, the Philippine-Italian Association (PIA) and the Tantoco-Bautista Foundation launched the book "Art Rebel: In Legend" at the National Museum. The launch was hosted by Jeremy Barns of Shakespeare Museum.

Authored by Alice Guillermo, the book showcases over 200 of Lorenzo's works in oil, pastel, tempera and watercolor.

Leading the guests were Lorenzo's Italian widow, Lina Paulini, who is secretary-general of PIA; his son Emilio Lorenzo, former First Lady Imelda Marcos and Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.

Other members of the Lorenzo family were also there: Mariella Villanueva and Ursula Lorenzo.

Also present were PIA directors Marcos Ancelloti Diaz, Tillie Delgado, Conrado Calalang, Nellie Bengzon, Marilou Alejandro and Nedy Tantoco, who's also PIA president.

Guillermo and sculptor Arnold Moscate reminisced the guests.

Other guests were Victoria Herrera of 107 Vargas Museum; Emanuela Salvini, cultural attaché of the Italian Embassy; Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jaspar; Ambassador to May of Cambodia, Collateral Grosso of the Philippines president Nestor Arellis; Betsy Valenzuela; Cid Reyes; diwa Cellan Santiago of the College of Fine Arts of University of the East; Adam Laya and Benito Legarda Jr.

The launch was sponsored by Malayan Insurance Company Inc., Tantoco-Bautista Foundation, Ralph's Wines and Spirits, and Altagracia. Cuisine was provided by Grilled Philippine Plates.

The book is available at Philippine-Italian Association, 2/F Zenit Bldg., 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8927251-53/7115. E-mail filia2@yahoo.com.

BETSY Westendorp and Beale Lee

SIOMAI Diaz and Marites Tantoco-Enriquez

UNVEILING the book onstage is former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Lina Paulini-Lorenzo, Emilio Lorenzo and Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.

DANNY Dalisay, Jaime Laya and the host of the evening, Jeremy Barns

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SM city
The SM City North Edsa Experience
on Page 3

GILDED AGE. Dionesia Pacquiao's image is digitally superimposed on this gold Lamé suit from a Vogue shoot.

Only the best for Mommy Dionesia

See 'The Prime of Ailing Dionesia' on page A1

BROTHERS: Paolo and Eleuterio Pineda pose with Dionesia Pacquiao and her best friend and first cousin Lilia Lao.

Happy, even giddy, for this mom, we do this digital makeover

A BALL GOWN FIT FOR A DIVERSS. Or skirt suits by Balmain and Chanel. Heck, even a two-piece gold-dipped suit by Lanvin!

And why not? Dionesia Pacquiao, mother to a multimillionaire boxing champ, could now certainly afford them.

Fashion designer Frederick Peralta pored over vintage issues of American Vogue and Harper's Bazaar to find looks that befit "Nanay Dionesia's" new delta status. He found several, each more extravagant than the next. "See the various functions that she

(MORE IN)

SLATED (L-R): Tita Pacquiao's Champ's mother "reuse," Balmain (above) and Chanel (below). These custom outfits were actually sewn by two New York socialites on the pages of Vogue.

AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE FAT AWAY

So try the delicious new Nature's Harvest FAB Apple!

Just like the other delicious Nature's Harvest FAB flavors, it has 100% pure and all-natural L-Carnitine that helps burn fat and Actiflber that helps flush fat away!* Plus 100% Vitamin C that helps keep you healthy.

*with proper diet and exercise

IT'S FUN TO BE FAB!

MACY Pineda and Dionesia Pacquiao

MANNY Pacquiao with Rodolfo Magno and Wilma Galvante, both top CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, in front of his new LA house

TEAM Pacquiao ladies Macy Pineda, Trisha Herrera, Jovena Ramos, Jinkee Pacquiao and junior jammers minutes after the May 2 fight at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas

NOT EXACTLY TO A MANOR BORN... Pacquiao in Reba McEntire's "Jo and Camilla Parker Bowles" ball gown. The original image of the Duchess of Cornwall in this dress appeared in Harper's Bazaar.

Only the best for Mommy Dionesia

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY AT THE PENINSULA MANILA

NOT JUST ON MAY 10TH 2009 BUT THROUGHOUT MAY

MEA MOM ROOM RATES

Valid for: May 1 – 31, 2009

Inclusive Rates: P5,000.00++

Extra Person: P1,000.00++

Inclusions:

1) Special Mother's Day tea-time sweets on May 9 and 10, 2009.

2) Complimentary use of spa relaxation facilities (subject to availability).

3) Complimentary upgrade to the next room category (subject to availability).

4) Complimentary use of gym facilities and outdoor swimming pool of The Peninsula Spa.

5) Discount from hotel

6) Complimentary local calls.

7) Complimentary high-speed wired Internet access.

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH BUFFET BUFFET

The Lobby and The Peninsula Shops

May 10, 2009 (Sun) 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

P895.00++ (ADULT) P495.00++ (CHILD) with complimentary glass of Champagne, P1,000.00++ (Adult) / P495.00++ (Child) with complimentary glass of Veuve Clicquot Champagne or tea or fruit shake)

For inquiries or room reservations, please call The Peninsula Manila at (+63 2) 887-2888 (reservation direct) or toll free at 1-800-10-813-1888 (reservation direct) or fax us at 813-2888 (reservation direct) or e-mail pmnl@peninsula.com

For reservations, please call (+63 2) 887-2888, extension 6888 or e-mail pmnl@peninsula.com

From page E1

lost to attend."

Who knows if she sees shares her daughter-in-law's penchant for designer purses and glitzy jewelry. But doesn't the woman who single-handedly raised the so-called People's Champ rightly deserve at least a wardrobe upgrade, even vicariously? The LBO Bangalan Station does, in fact, blessed the woman was Rodeo Drive-bound on her first (shopping) trip to Sanrio.

Pacula chose a pink ball gown worn by Duchess Camilla Parker Bowles from the pages of Harper's Bazaar (2003) and a couple of more edgier designer outs worn by two New York philanthropists in Vogue (2007), among others.

He observed the 66-year-old woman has a sense of fearlessness in her. "I think a lot of women could relate to her," he says. "She comes from humble beginnings and self-made-do's able to buy all these things."

To go with the new wardrobe, hairstylist Henri Calipay suggests a wavy cut with fringes to frame the diminutive woman's face. He says to maintain the length, similar to Amsterdam country singer Reba McEntire's do, an athlete photo cut artist Photoshopped the Pacquiao's face, capping a little cream screws in the process.

And voila! He get a pretty good idea. This would be Dionesia Pacquiao in her prime.

MANNY Pacquiao in front of his new LA house with lawyers Franklin Gaud, Eric Pineda, and Wilson Tieng and Peter Chanlong, both from Subic

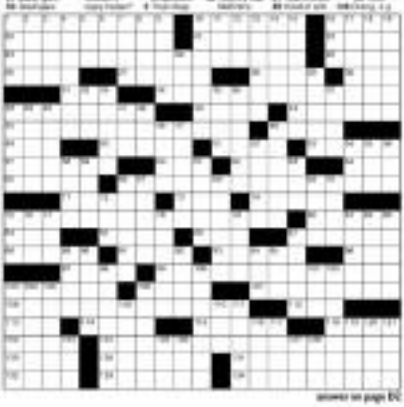
PACQUIAO in his LA apartment rehearsing the song "Lahing Pinoy" with composer Ute Cerne. Manny's recording of "Lahing Pinoy" was played when the boxer entered the MGM for the May 2 fight.

JANET Jansors (main of photo), Trisha Herrera and Jinkee Pacquiao inside Manny's new LA home, which was still unfurnished before the fight

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

MOM'S IN THE MIDDLE



answers on page E6

Myra E's "Beauty Inside" That Serves

From left to right: Anaka Forbes (Asst. Vice President - Investible), Alice Orbeta (I Can Serve), Maida Baquiran (Corporate Vice President - Unilab), Kara Alikpala (I Can Serve), Josie Ilo (Asst. Product Manager - Investible), Ingrid Javier (Senior Product Manager - Investible), Chelsea Lim (Product Executive - Investible)

For years now, women have trusted Myra E to deliver beauty that's more than just skin deep. That's because the vitamin E in Myra E is one of nature's most powerful anti-oxidants that helps protect the skin and body from damage. Thanks to the power of vitamin E, women can be beautiful inside and out.

That's why last March 2009, Myra E launched its "Beauty Inside" advocacy campaign together with its Ambassadors of Inner Beauty, the successful women of substance: Dawn Zulueta, Myra E endorser, award-winning actress, and mother; Isabel Rivas, model and animal rights activist; Pinkie Chanco, host, athlete, outdoor enthusiast and animal lover; Pinky Marcos, professional teacher and celebrity host; and Gaby dela Merced, race car enthusiast and a supporter of the I Can Serve foundation.

Aside from their individual advocacies, these five lovely women have extraordinary feat to lend their support for Myra E's "Beauty Inside" advocacy campaign, a fund-raiser for I Can Serve, a non-profit foundation that promotes women empowerment by arming them with cancer information so that they can make informed decisions about their health and by providing services to help breast cancer survivors, (learn in particular was so inspired by Myra E's campaign that she enthusiastically lent her services to I Can Serve for their self-exam instructional materials to remind women to have themselves examined.

Meanwhile, many Filipina women took part in the "Beauty Inside" campaign and brought out their inner beauty by helping other women. In as simple as adding a stylish "Beauty Inside" advocacy shirt in their wardrobe or getting their daily dose of Myra 400E or Myra Tocopherol, the campaign was able to generate more than half a million pesos that will go a long, long way in helping I Can Serve give hope to women with breast cancer.

Card offers lifestyle specials

AMERICAN EXPRESS Platinum 2009 Lifestyle Travel Specials offer all the luxurious destinations.

A trip to France features on the wine route and takes members through Burgundy and Champagne to savor the vintages of these regions, and also through Alsace and in the quaint villages and rolling vineyards.

A nine-day tour of Thailand and Vietnam centers around the great temples, the Blue Panorama Mountains and the long Bay cruise in Vietnam.

Also offered is Malaysia's Sunway Lagoon, which offers the world's largest surf beach complex with eight-foot high waves.

In Bhutan, the serene yellow Indian orchids in a pristine 20-km valley.

Call 8144777.

We mothers try to move on past our grief

Women who have experienced the loss of a son or daughter form Moving on Mothers (Moms)

By Myrna Paolito Barrozaos
Contributor

(SEATED) Lady Noque, Norma Escano, Lita Salinas and Lou (standing) Myrna Paolito-Barrozaos, Karen Tuason, Boots Samson, Susy Lopez Gonzalez, Lguest, Baby Espaldon, Lonnie Hechanova and Viola Cruz

KAREN Tuason, Lu, Marina Tanjangco and Myrna Paolito-Barrozaos

I LOST MY MOTHER ON Mother's Day 2004. A year before that, I lost my daughter Trisha, who, for a year and 10 months, battled non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

In my younger years, not much attention was given to Mother's Day celebrations. As my children were growing up, one of the activities in school was to draw pictures and make cards for Mommy on her special day.

This year, my family will celebrate Mother's Day by going to Manicured having lunch with our children and grandchildren.

After Trisha (Patricia, a teacher and one of Manila's top models) passed away, life lost its meaning for me. On her 40th day, I told Mom and for her and invited family and close friends for lunch. This was also the day we put her ash in the crypt.

Among my guests were mothers who had also lost a child. One was Lita Salinas, who suggested the idea of forming a support group for mothers like us. Comforted by, there were five of us in the group who shared the same fate—Lita, Lonnie Hechanova, Norma Escano and my sister Lu, who also lost a son years back.

Feb. 22, 2003 was the start of the journey of five grieving moms. We had a bond—each one lost a child! Our loss inspired us to form a group that would meet together to be with others who understand our pain and cry with God.

We call ourselves Moms, or "Moving on Mothers." Others have joined us—Viola Cruz, Baby Jaimes, Karen Tuason, Baby Espaldon, Lotty Noque, Susy Lopez Gonzales and Elsie Tanjangco.

Great comfort

We find great comfort talking about our grief and pain. We help each other cope with the loss. Each of us had to accept that our child is gone forever, to affirm that this is the start of a healing process. Our meetings have helped them channel their frustrations, process sadness, friendship and compassion.

Support groups for cancer survivors, alcoholics, drug addicts, and abused women prove to be very rewarding but scarcely for bereaved mothers.

Moms members have expressed their thoughts. From my sister Lu: "Being together sustained us. We formed a bond forged out of common pain. In no one is stronger among us. We marvel the same sadness path and understand each other. The pain of losing a child has created a special place in our hearts. We are allowed every tear to cry—to cope with the loss. I realize God's presence and His love for me—despite the loss."

After six years of Moms, there is still the urge of pain, but life goes on. I still visit Trisha in the crypt. It is my daily ritual to just spend time there, talking and praying to her. I sometimes get a start when I hear her favorite song. My heart skips a beat when I see some of her former students, now in their teens.

The acceptance is there, but as people say, we are the "walking wounded" who will always bear the scar of a fragment left by one's lost child.

To all of us mothers—this is our day! Let's celebrate!

(SEATED) Lita Salinas, Susy Lopez Gonzales and Viola Cruz; (standing) Marita Tanjangco, Myrna Paolito-Barrozaos, Lonnie Hechanova, Norma Escano, Lu and Baby Espaldon

shoulders, unburden our pain and even get angry with God.

We call ourselves Moms, or "Moving on Mothers." Others have joined us—Viola Cruz, Baby Jaimes, Karen Tuason, Baby Espaldon, Lotty Noque, Susy Lopez Gonzales and Elsie Tanjangco.

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To all of us mothers—this is our day! Let's celebrate!

the pain, the loss, the heartbreak of us built a rich reserve of courage, strength, hope, peace, faith and even sanity. We all drew strength from each other. We continue to grow, surrender, but turned persevere ourselves not to our knees. We have learned to open our hearts and ultimately acceptance. Moms helped us heal our circumstance, encouraged us to grow into better persons, accept our situation, move on and not lose our faith in God."

Karen Tuason: "Moms has helped me verbalize my grief, enabling me to slowly move on in time. As Lita said, one must learn not only to accept, but also agree with God's will regarding our child's passing.

Monthly meeting

Quoting Marina: "Years after the death of my son Daniel, I was a lost soul, grieving and crying every time I see something that reminds me of Dan, or if I bump into his friends. Then Moms happened! I look forward to our monthly meetings where we can just be ourselves—cry, blame myself or others, express anger at times—just any kind of emotion I could not share or share with anyone who has not experienced the death of a child. I still miss Dan so much, but must accept that he is gone. I have to move on with my life."

Fiona Kuwa: "It was wonderful to find a group of women who completely understood what I was going through. I was able to share all the pain and sorrow I felt. They were a fantastic help in getting others I am today."

Fiona Marlet: "Moms has helped me refocus from my own loss to the loss of other mothers. There is a special kinship and affinity when we are together. We've learned to appreciate each other, thus making it easier to cope with our loss."

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Enjoy our SURF & TURF SPECIALS with your choice of any of our Aqualuna Club specialties, Grilled Lobster, Tiger Prawns, Vietnamese Specialties, or our famous Shaken Beef.
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SM city north edsa Experience

Pioneer Tenants Recall the North-Edsa Experience

In a few weeks, SM City North EDSA will formally open the Singapore, the latest and perhaps most beautiful phase of its redevelopment. With its lush greenery, water features, pre-amphitheater, and retail and food theme dining excitement, it will have landmark in the North Metro area.

The redevelopment is significant because it brings us back to the mall that started it all... SM City North EDSA. In preparation for this, we are running a series on the North EDSA heritage and how it has shaped Philippine lifestyles.

Last week, we featured in the Beginning. ... There was North EDSA...recalling how SM Founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. built the mall in the midst of a major political and economic crisis, and made local retail history. This time, we recall the SM City North EDSA experience through its pioneer tenants.

Manolo chairman Manuel Siguenot

MANOLO

Opened November 12, 1995

Why they chose to open at North EDSA: "Tower Sy-Cuaon invited me and some other colleagues in the retail industry to have a tour of the mall as it was being built and gave me prime space," recalls Manolo Chairman Manuel Siguenot. "While I was apprehensive because of the crisis during that time, this was instrumental to my experience working with SM: to back record in Makati, and the all not duplicate of the mall's management."

How they have grown with SM? "Sales were good from the time we opened, and I remember that the mall even had its shopping hours to 9:00 and 10:00 PM to accommodate the many customers. We now have 42 stores all over the Philippines, 14 in Luzon area at SM."

Why they will continue to be part of the North EDSA transformation: "We have a dynamic relationship, and I want to be part of the new mall, just as I was part of North EDSA the first time it opened."

Jollibee's owner and President, William Tan

JOLLIBEE

Opened 1998

Why they chose to open at North EDSA: "We've had a long, solid relationship with SM for so many years," says Jollibee President William Tan. "I remember the time I was scheduled to meet Mr. Henry Sy, Sr. about opening a branch at SM City North EDSA. I was surprised that they had scheduled the meeting at 5:00 AM, supposedly at 12 midnight. We were so overjoyed to and were shocked to see Mr. Sy still in the office with his staff at that time.

I was also impressed and touched when Teresa Sy Coson who was heavily involved first hand at the time took time to tour me around the construction site and show me the space SM was providing. We were amazed at the SM management's dedication to work and thought how despite the odds, the mall would be a success."

How they have grown with SM: "We have more than 50 Jollibee outlets in its malls and supermarkets. We have a mutually beneficial relationship with SM."

Why they will continue to be part of the SM City North EDSA transformation: "We will always remain committed to support SM in its malls in the Philippines and overseas."

Ricky Reyes Saturn's Ricky Reyes

RICKY REYES

Opened November 12, 1995

Why he chose to open at North EDSA: "I'm very adventurous businessman," says Ricky Reyes, who founded the popular chain of hair and beauty salons. "Besides, I could see the trend leading to shopping malls."

How he has grown with SM: "I was a pioneer tenant at SM City North EDSA opening the same time as the Department Store and Supermarket, and have grown as SM has grown. Today, I have salons in almost SM Malls - except those in Davao, Batangas, Dasmariñas and Cagayan de Oro."

Why he will continue to be part of the SM City North EDSA transformation: "It's because of my loyalty to Mr. Henry Sy, Sr. whom I fondly call "tatang." I remember when SM City North EDSA first opened, he would be in the mall every other day. He would often visit my salons and our interactions became learning sessions for me. For me, Mr. Sy is not only a business icon but someone who has become very much like a father to me."

National Bookstore president Presentacion Ramos

NATIONAL BOOKSTORE

Opened April 11, 1996

Why these chose to open at North EDSA: "My mother-in-law, National Bookstore founder Socorro Ramos and Mr. Henry Sy, Sr. had known each other for sometime as they both had stores downtown," says National Bookstore for sometime as they both had stores downtown," says National Bookstore President Percy Ramos. "He invited us to be part of the mall, and we agreed."

How they have grown with SM: " We have been able to grow together and today 30 of our 100 branches are at SM."

Why they will continue to be part of the SM City North EDSA transformation: "We are happy to be part of the new SM City North EDSA! Boy was we were the first time it opened."

FRENCH BAKER

Opened December 1999

Why they chose to open at North EDSA: "Before I thought of investing in French Baker, our family was already supplying bread to the SM Supermarket," says French Baker President Jonito Kua. "Deciding to join SM was not difficult as I've known the Sy brothers, especially Herbert, very well. Honest and good work

Mr. John Le Roa, owner and president of French Baker with his staff at SM City North EDSA

ethic are the values we share. I knew I could grow with SM."

How they have grown with SM: "We have now 30 stores in SM malls and supermarkets."

Why they will continue to be part of the SM City North EDSA transformation: "We have been very supportive of SM's projects and we will continue to be so."

Mars Chua

SPORTSHOUSE

Opened December 1995

Why they chose to open up at North EDSA: "We believed in the mall concept," says Sportshouse President Mars Chua. "I vividly remember our opening day at SM City North EDSA, which was graced by celebrities, PBA players, sportscasters and sports enthusiasts. We treated our merchandise in sports attire and were surprised that shoppers were having their picture taken with those mannequins."

How they grew with SM: "We have around 32 stores nationwide, 22 of which are at SM."

Why they will continue to be part of SM City North EDSA's transformation: "I am very grateful to SM especially to Mr. Sy for all his support and encouragement through the years. Whenever SM goes, we are looking forward to be part of the group."

Some of SM City North EDSA's other pioneer tenants include McDonald's, Mang's Cookhouse, Dimensions, Magic Island Water, Fabrik Wear House, and Multi-Wire, each one with their own SM story, each looking forward to open new stores as SM City North EDSA undergoes its transformation.

Treat Mom to a getaway

There are getaway options for mom on Mother's Day, at Dit Albergo Hotel on Alabang Zapote Road, near the city's famed tourist attractions, or Solaire's Dit Resort City by the Sea or the Dit Casino Hotel and Resort, which are both near the airport, or in Manila's Dit Taft Tower Hotel, adjacent to the city's shopping strips. There's also the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bonifacio Global City, Taytay, Rizal, whose main attractions include two three-level outdoor pools and a spacious green ground. Call 557-9001 to 04.

Win Boracay cruise

Get a chance to win a luxurious three-day, two-night Boracay Cruise with full board meals for two aboard MS *Lion* to Boracay's Lucky Day for diners of the lunch/dinner buffet spread at the Riviera Café of The Heritage Hotel Manila, today, Mother's Day.

Other prizes include discounts and gift vouchers from Saniel for all Mandaluyong Apparatus, Accessories, Shiseido's World gym and spa, Foot for the Gods, David's Salon and Salon pada.

Call The Heritage Hotel Manila at 8528888 or e-mail food.bev@theheritagehotelmanila.com.

Dine to win

The Renaissance Makati City Hotel Manila's newly renovated restaurants M'Dini Mining to Midnight's and Jasmine pay tribute to all mothers today by offering a choice of extra-special celebrations. At M'Dini, every group of five adult diners get a gift certificate for a lunch or dinner buffet also at M'Dini. At Jasmine Fine Cantonese Cuisine restaurant, Master Chef Chai Wing Ki offers two special Mother's Day set menus. Select from P16,800 and P18,800 packages for a table of 10. Those who avail of the Mother's Day set menus receive a gift certificate worth P2,000, which can be used on a future visit to Jasmine. Call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel at 8116888.

Tres meal for Mom

A sumptuous 3 x 1 lunch and dinner buffet of Chinese and international dishes await the moms today at P888 per person. For a family of four, Mom receives a long-stemmed red rose and gets to dine for free! The Manila Grand Opera Hotel is located at José Dorotheo Street corner Paseo Arsenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Call 310-0000 to 09 or visit www.manilagrandoperahotel.com.

NURTURING. Like the mythological mothers are known for their embracing qualities and nurturing spirits, Flower by Rosas is a blend of colorful and sensual notes of mixed flowers that exalts its freshness and vitality.

TEA TIME. Royal Albert, known for their English floral-inspired tableware, offers its latest Flower of the Month Collectible Tea, themed along delicate floral lines of the English country garden. Each month is celebrated in beauty with the appropriate flower and name, a perfect piece to start one's tea set collection and a timeless gift for the special woman in our lives. The collection also includes a teapot, creamer and covered sugar bowl that incorporates all flowers featured in the 12 months. Royal Albert is exclusively distributed by Rosas Marketing Corp. and available only at Rustan's Department Store, Makati.

HIGH-TECH POTS AND PANS. Tefal, a French brand that pioneered nonstick cookware technology, introduces a range of new pots and pans coated with value-added features, further boosting Tefal's image as an innovator and household name since 1956. Wholly immersed in the modern, the new cookware collection is equipped, among other things, with Tefal's patented Top Cook System, a protective layer applied on its nonstick properties, making the cookware scratch resistant and far more durable than others in its class. Tefal is exclusively distributed nationwide by Rustan Marketing Corp. and available in leading department stores nationwide.

MEGA ATRIUM

Double Mom's joy this Mother's Day at the Mega Atrium.

Indulge mom's senses this Mother's Day with world-class shopping, exquisite dining, plus amazing entertainment and events.

Cocoy Laurel Lemuel Dela Cruz

Manila Philharmonic Orchestra
with Cocoy Laurel & Lemuel Dela Cruz
May 10, 7:30PM
Mega Atrium

Slice of Sigla
Cooking show
May 10, 10AM - 6PM
Event Center

Eden

Island Indulgence: The Hawaiian SPA-rty
A guest skill session for moms
May 8-10, 10AM - 9PM
Mega Atrium

Mom's Day at the Lanes
Special deals for bowling moms
May 9-11
SM Bowling Center

Schedule of Masses
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord

Friday	12:10PM, 6PM.
Saturday	12:10PM, 4PM, 5PM and 7PM.
Sunday*	9AM, 11AM, 12:30PM, 2PM, 5:30PM, 7PM and 8:30PM.

Adoration Chapel open daily from 10AM to 9PM.
*Special masses on Mother's Day on May 10

For inquiries, call our concierge at 633-9001 to 40. • Valet parking available

MEGAMALL
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It's a feast of treats
FOR MOM at the MEGA ATRIUM.

Make this Mother's Day an extra special one for Mom. Check out the SM Megamall **Mega Atrium**, where you can treat her to a feast of non-stop dining and shopping to make the day a fun and memorable one.

Start mega off with a shopping spree for clothes, shoes, accessories, jewelry or anything she wants at the many shops of the **Mega Atrium**. When it's time for a break, take her for a hearty meal at a restaurant at the atrium.

The great thing about dining at the **Mega Atrium** is the variety of restaurants that cater to any of Mom's cravings. And because the **Mega Atrium** wants to help make Mother's Day an unforgettable day, the restaurants are offering specials made just for her.

Complimentary dishes, desserts or gifts await Mom at Kanin Recipe, Red Kimono, Dumbo, Bigby's, Aveiro, Chefs' Quarter, Curry Curry House, Sili & Go, Pizza Hut Bistro, The Superbowl of China, Gerry's, The Manang, and The Bistro Peppercorn.

You can also take Mom to Kebab Pavilion, Pakistani Kasi, CS Holy Cow, The French Baker, Boulder's Burger, Tanjoki Bay, Dreamwork or Dakimaki for post-mom dishes.

Of course, more sweet options await at Häagen-Dazs, Dairy Queen, Eskimo Bon, Graano & Cream, and Cookieboy.

If Mom seeks a coffee or tea break, her favorite cafes can also be found at the **Mega Atrium**. Take her to Blend Coffee, the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Blackbird or Rio's Coffee, or over to Juice Juice for a fruity juice fix.

More to the center of your attention today. Come and celebrate Mother's Day with her at the **Mega Atrium** for a feast of treats and make the day mega-special, just for her.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Davao Gulf is sheer adventure

With rich marine biodiversity and World War II shipwrecks, it is ideal for diving

Text and photos by Anna R. Jamboco

DAVAO GULF IS A captivating, intimate seascape, captivating enough to have a Gulf Festival organized around it.

The campaign is spearheaded by the Department of Tourism (DOT) to promote the province as eco-tourism destination.

With rich marine biodiversity including the rarely seen sea horses, eels and sea turtles, the Davao Gulf is ideal for marine diving, adventure divers can explore World War II shipwrecks of Japanese battleships located at deep as 131 ft in waters off Samal Island.

"Davao is home to five of six marine turtles in the country. The Davao Gulf is included in the Coral Triangle Initiative, a region in the world where most of the marine species are found," said Nenita Garcia, regional director of DOT Davao and a diver herself.

In Samal Island alone there are over 23 dive spots. A team-featured dive destination is the 5-km Coral Garden in Babak Island, an oasis of corals with around 250 species of aquarium fish, 50 of the 73 genera of Philippine corals, and nine of 13 species of sea grass.

The Marines Reef, a dive spot also ideal for students, is a mesmerizing seabed with a beguiling drop-blue chasm just right after its peak, dropping over 300 ft before reaching the ocean floor. The peak is a feast for the eyes, with coral formations bursting with a myriad of fishes, sea horses and sea cucumbers.

To celebrate the sea, the city of Davao held the Camarotes costume festival at the Sta. Ana Wharf, to raise awareness on the importance of marine life preservation.

On its fifth year, the Camarotes festival ("camarote" means "sandwich") was participated in by the city's top artists and designers.

While the deep blue is the attraction of divers, another option is the wild water adventure. The Davao Wild Water Adventure Inc. (Donnelly Park Compound, Riverfront Corporate City, Davao, call 303-2000) is the premier white-water rafting sports facility in the region. It takes newbies and experienced paddlers on a 15-km adrenalin-rush ride downstream the majestic Davao River. That's how river you will be to nature.

Tourists are given thorough, on-location training on land and in the river, including paddling basics.

Safety is a primary concern. The comprehensive on-location instruction of the instructors boosts one's self-confidence in an unknown territory. Donning a row of downstream water adventure, such as swirling waters called "washing machines," sudden drops, "kiss the walls" and rests, the five-hour ride also brings you to the rich flora surrounding the river.

A different way of experiencing nature is through a thrilling zipline cable ride at the Eden Nature Park in Mount Talomo, a 600m upstair highlighting the glorious features of nature. Named Skyride, it takes adventurers hovering up to 60 ft over nature, zipping along a 200-m cable line for three short but sweet rush.

The park, named by DOT as one of the premiere ecological tourist spots in the country, also serves regionally grown vegetables, and owns out-charming cottages, villas and rooms. It is also recreational and bird sanctuary.

SUMMER ESCAPE GUIDE

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Reyes' oasis now a family destination

By Alex T. Vergara

SUMMER ESCAPES GUIDE

Resort has no master plan—only a businessman's Midas touch

GOLDEN Sunset, a corner of Calatagan, Batangas, where rest, water and history mean.

IT SEEMS EVERYTHING MULTI-millionaire businessman Ricky Reyes touches turns to gold, including lobster framer in Calatagan, Batangas... his residential foray into the resort-restaurant business.

For almost two years now, the resort, a rare fishpond which took Reyes close to ten years to redevelop, has been attracting carloads of families from Metro Manila and beyond who enjoy the air-conditioned Reyes whipped up himself—a heavenly sanctuary, artistry and outdoor museum of pre-colonial earthenware and porcelain pieces dug in the area. (Batangas has been the site of lucrative diggings through the decades.)

Considered as the first in the country the museum has received plaudits from some pedestrian displaying Chinese and pre-Spanish pieces on loan from the National Museum.

"My partner Cris (Aquino) and I learn next to nothing about managing a resort," says Reyes, "but we seem to be doing a good job based on the number of repeat guests. You should have seen how business was during Holy Week."

Rather than send guests back to Manila, the staff had to set up tents to accommodate walk-ins. Rooms were also fully booked two weeks ago as Golden Sunset played host to the candidates of Miss Philippines Earth.

Every a section of the Reyes home in the resort, cottages adjacent to the main house, and KTV rooms had to be rented out to guests.

Situated in Barangay Bay Tosuan, the 7.7-ha sprawling luxury several swimming pools with water slides, mini-golf, karaoke rooms and restaurants, including Cocina de Oro and Diam Empress, serving home-cooked style Filipino and Chinese dishes.

The coffee shop, Café Venezia, serves only cold drinks and its luscious thick-malts. Its new guests from the bandit of bringing money or credit cards as they explore the huge resort, Reyes and company have set up a prepaid, non-reloadable "passport" system to be used for food and drinks.

"We've learned our hard prices to discourage guests from bringing food," says Reyes. "What's the point of investing your self when you're here to relax?"

Guests who want to stay overnight can choose from 70 rooms, including two-bedroom family suites, bachelors suites and honeymoon villas with secluded pocket gardens for romantic dinners.

ONE of several colorful jeepneys which ply the resort

ROAD leads to Sangguniang Bata

ONE of two KTV rooms

WEEKEND "bahu" show

Recharge

At the end of a long, hot day, bone-tired travelers can recharge in the open-air Serendipity Spa, which gives a scenic view of South China Sea and its golden-yellow sunset.

Massage therapies do Shiatsu, Swedish, Thai and the resort's signature Golden Touch and body/pressure massages. The place includes an a foot and bathroom suites and a hair and nail pampering center.

Or, guests can choose to go fishing, boating, biking or playing beach volleyball. They can also play billiards or mahjong and bingo.

"I've had a number of media friends over and they had a blast fishing for their food with their families," says Reyes. "You can catch bangus and tilapia and have them cooked the way you want them."

Weekends, there are shows, including the lunchtime "bahu show" featuring costumed performers dancing on a floating raft in Hawaiian and South Pacific songs. Then there are the "Lolo Hour" composed of seasoned guy improvisators.

FIRST outdoor museum featuring pre-Spanish pieces of its kind

THIS villa has a secluded area for intimate dinners.

HOMEMESSER and businessman Ricky Reyes

Investment

It's hard to imagine that the place, when it was first offered to Reyes four years ago, was almost barren. Kevin Aquino, himself a seasoned businessman in the travel industry, discouraged Reyes from buying the property.

After much browsing and boring, Reyes finally bought the place as investment. He had no idea what to do with it, but the price of the property was too good to refuse.

"The owner, a good friend, was badly in need of money," he says. "When I got the place, I had no inkling I could turn it into a resort. To begin with, I'm not fond of the sea."

He had part of the property cleared to make way for a family reunion. Since the place was sandy, very little vegetation grew. Part of the work involved trucking in topsoil for Reyes' gardens.

It didn't take long for the couple to see the property's potential. Reyes once invited a friend to stay over for the weekend. The guy, who obviously had a good time despite the spare amenities, handed down up with a company in search of a secluded venue for team building.

"They kept asking me to open up the place if only for a weekend," says Reyes. "They were willing to pay and asked me for a package for board and lodging."

Reyes finally agreed. He and his family had to vacate their own rest house one weekend to make way for "guests." He even had to have temporary cooks and mobilize his household staff.

"When the last guest had left, we were left with a P200,000 profit," he recalls. "We had for a weekend work. That was when the businessman in me and Cris kicked in."

Not since the opening of his salon chain had Reyes embarked on one of his biggest projects: turning a gravel-y, desolate swine of fishponds into "my paradise."

2 years in making

For almost two years, Reyes and Aquino spent their weekends and most of their free time overseeing the construction and landscaping of a resort that had no master plan.

"Everything was in my head," says a proud Reyes. "I'm not ashamed to say this because I'm an admission of sin. I even drew the plans."

Reyes is one businessman who also doesn't believe in waste. He had several of his old staff cleaned off, repainted and given new use.

"You see those chairs? They were used to my old saloon which had a garden theme before they had a makeover," he says.

He also doesn't seem to know when to stop...but when work on Golden Sunset has finally shut down, Reyes acquired an adjacent property, 0.3 ha in all, in Halang Bukid, a neighboring barangay.

"I've already lined up attractions for children framed's photo two," says an excited Reyes. "One is to open it to public dig, gings. This place still has historic artifacts."

More than the revenues, Reyes takes pride in the fact that he remains the only property owner along the Calatagan coast to open his retreat to the public.

"It's heartening when people come and tell me they enjoyed their stay," he says. "It more than makes up for all the headaches we have to endure running the place."

Call Golden Sunset's Manila office at 4712138 and 4722463, or visit www.goldensunset.ph.

Milestones

We welcome announcement of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group photo along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of their bridal gown. If any, to the address: PO. Box 1155, Makati Central Post Office, 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in accordance to the order.

ABELLON WEDDING

Gregory and Shannon Shelton exchanged wedding vows on April 18 at Sacramento de San Juan, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. The wedding ceremony also served as a reunion for the bride's mother, Nancy Chan (second from right), with her sister Beth Chan (right) and brothers Jhon (left) Celso, Rodolfo and Landy, all surnamed Tolentino, who have been living in the United States.

SORIANO-ALFORQUE

Christopher José Darroy Soriano, son of Dr. José Gabaldon Soriano and Bridget Reyes Darroy, will marry Shannon Mary Ysmerjoy Alforque, daughter of engineer Romero Alquisar Alforque and Dr. Norma Lourdes Torreyes, on June 13 at Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Chapel, Marina Bicutan Homes subdivision, Lupa-Lupa Ong Cebu. Reception is at The Blumont, Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Punta Engaño Road, Lapu-Lapu City. Gown designer is Jean Belleza.

ILAGAN-SIGISMUNDO

Jonelle Marie Sigismundo, daughter of Efren and Josie Sigismundo, and Aaron Ilagan, son of Augusto and Lucila Ilagan, were wed on May 1 at the Shrine of St. Joseph the Worker in San José, Batangas.

LEVENTIC-ACOSTA

Nigel Leventic of Cronia and Melissa Acosta of Toronto, Canada, exchanged vows at Manila de Bino Chapel in Tagaytay Highlands on April 25, 2:30 p.m. Reception followed at The Veranda Tagaytay Highlands. The bride wore a creation of Jamil Ap.

The wedding event was handled by The Wedding Stylists of Bonnie de la Cruz Abad from Ysmea, Cavite.

SILAO-MAAPE

Cedric Silao, son of Julio and Rebecca Silao of Valenzuela, Bulakan, and Maida Maape, daughter of Benito and Amanda Maape, of Iglesia Independiente in Dipol, Mauban, Quezon, on Jan. 18. Reception was held at Grand Caprice, Cagayan de Oro City. The couple resides in London.

Luke Yuhico proposed to Riza Joseph while parasailing over Boracay

YUHICO-JOSEPH NUPTIALS

From the kiddie pool to the altar —that's romantic destiny

By Maurice Arcache

IT STARTED YEARS AGO AT ALABANG Country Club's baby pool when 9-year-old Luke Yuhico first met Riza Joseph, who was 4. He was the classmate of her older brother Bobi. He remembers her back then as "always crying when they didn't let her play with them because she was so small and because she was a girl."

Thirteen years later, they met again. Riza drove by Luke's grandparents' house where he bumped into her. Again, a quick but fun conversation, he asked her out. It was here decided they would go to the gym together over the next weeks. It was then they realized they had much in common—love of Broadway music. They'd sing Broadway songs as they drove to and from the gym. Soon, love was in the air.

Then Riza had to leave for the US for college. They found themselves as a romance as they both did not believe in long-distance relationships. They decided to keep in touch yet remain realistic about their situation. Soon, however, they realized being apart did not diminish their love.

Graduation

Before long, Luke was graduating with honors from the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. He interned with Makati Medical Center's Rita Gaviz Asona for his graduation. Riza was graduated with honors as well, with an accounting degree in California, and Luke flew to the US to be with her.

On their fifth year as a couple, Luke took Riza to Boracay. While parasailing, he asked for her hand in marriage. She tearfully said yes. And he produced the ring. She said, "I couldn't believe you're crazy enough to actually bring the ring all the way up there."

After that trip, she received a dozen red roses. Luke had persisted himself that the woman he would give a dozen red roses to would be the one he'd marry.

The wedding began on time at Immaculate de San Antonio Church in Forbes Park. The entourage walked down the aisle to "Somewhere Like You," from the Broadway musical Jekyll and Hyde."

The groom was dashing in black suit and white tie by JC Buenilla while the entourage and bride were in elegant gowns by Pearce Patricia Ohno.

The most memorable point was the exchange of vows, which the couple had written themselves.

BOBBY Joseph and his wife Ida Manalo Joseph walk their daughter Riza to the altar

LUKE and Riza with Ow and Linda Ejercito, Ow and Freddie Garcia

JOANNE Romulo, flanker Manalo, the couple, (seated) Bobby and Ida Joseph, Carol and husband Hans Ty

After the "'Til death do us part," they were pronounced man and wife by Msgr. Gary Irvine.

The ceremony closed with the song "Seasons of Love," which carried their motto for the celebration, "Measure your life in love."

Cocktails were at Shangri-La's Oriental Hotel.

Rosy reception

At the reception, doors were opened at 3:30 p.m. and guests were welcomed by the couple's parents, Nonoy and Dina Yuhico and Bobby and Ida Joseph, as the Sonny Manuel played, and a slideshow, prepared by the bride and bridesmaid Elizabeth Nguyen, flashed on screens.

The ballroom, designed by Jennifer Tanada with the couple, and coordinator Rita Nera, had a Broadway theme: black tablecloth, low lit candles, tall crystal vases and bright red roses as far as the eyes could see.

Each table's centerpiece was a high crystal vase, accented there but tall, topped with cluster of red roses.

Here's to romance and destiny—a long way from that bright day in the kiddie pool.

THE MENG YWEDS with maids of honor Lyndaine Tan and Rea Gonzales; best man Terry Ridon and Clark Vun Herrera

A Cebu wedding in Boracay

CHRISTINA SHIA ANG GIL Concellado got married at the Holy Rosary Parish of Boracay, with over 200 guests in attendance. She is the daughter of Edmundo Mira and Helen Fruto Mira; he is the son of architect Willie Concellado and Marlen Lao Concellado.

A good number of those present had come from Cebu days ahead to attend the despedida de soltera at Boracay's Wedding Wishing beach resort. Everyone came in white.

CEBU CEBU

Lubne Piccercell

"Beach elegant" was deemed for the wedding, with Fr Magloire Pluere officiating the nuptial mass. Principal sponsors were Ambassador Alberto del Rosario, David Lee, Jaime Montelibano, Tim Reiss, Gordon Fikuart, the bride's maternal aunts Diana Ledesma and Jean Tyson, Marlena Singo, Venus Gamorosh, and Ruby Vera.

Trina Molina was matron of honor. There were two best men—Gil's brothers Gary Concellado and Anton Gonzales—and an honor attendant, Cholo Tagaytay.

Bridesmaids Maye Luna, Leanne Pineda, Jo Shebe, Gwai Tagaytay and Sharon de Guzman were complemented by groomsmen James de Jesus, Jun Hernandez, Michael Concellado, Vince Lozano and Alan Buffon.

Among the little attendants were the bride's nieces as flower girls: Andi Ledesma, Maxine and Alyssa Partridge. Bearing the rings, coins and Bible, respectively, were Andreas Concellado, Rhea Quisumbing and Paolo Concellado.

Attending to the bridal couple during the nuptial rites were secondary sponsors Gerard and Trina Concellado for the candles; Danny and Nina Mina, veil; Archie and Marcia Quisumbing, cord.

A CEBU 44

WEDDING at the Shangri-La's Mactan for Raymund Cordero and Bobbie Kho

A Cebu wedding . . .

From page F3

The celebrations that followed were held at the beach front of Discovery Shores. Guests were served along with chilled prawns, New Zealand mussels, baby lobsters, plus assorted sushi and sashimi.

Dinners followed with guests having an array of specialties, ranging from a stand bar to a carving station with US roast beef, and a grill that offered prawns, blue marlin chunks and pork ribs.

On the buffet were lamb ribs from Montenegro, fish fillets crusted with nuts, crusted sirloin and braised chicken. For dessert, there were cups and cakes galore, a station for crepes, and another for guests to make their own fresh fruits.

Aqua and chartreuse, colors associated with the sea, made the wedding's motif, admirably carried over by Hindy's OIC, Ms Gil the attendants of the bride, groom and the entire entourage.

There were speeches and toasts. The dance by Christina and Gil was an upbeat waving number from Bernie Dexamo and Dessamille. That set the tone for the rest of the evening, and way into the next day.

Christina and Gil spent their honeymoon in Europe, visiting Paris, Madrid, Salamanca, Milan, Barcelona, Athens and Santorini. After that, they will settle in Manila.

Gil is an architect by profession, having graduated as Beta Sigma and UP Diliman. Christina studied in Cebu International School and Ateneo de Manila University. She is marketing director of Rising Tide Mobile Entertainment Inc.

They promise to visit Cebu often and spend time with Christina's venerable grandmother, Mercedes Primero. She lends her name to the Mercedes Golf and Country Club in Bogo, northern Cebu, of which Ed Mina is the president. Also is Hotel de Mercedes in downtown Cebu, whose president is Cebu Primero Mina.

The Primero family in Cebu is related to some of the oldest and most prominent clans. Aside from that, they are into construction and sugar plantation.

Cordova Kiss

The Ocean Pavilion of Shangri-La in Mactan was the scene of the wedding of Debbie Rita and Raymond Cordova one night afternoon. Debbie's parents are Ben Abraham Rita and Miriam Rita, who are from Bohol. Raymond is the son of Buenaventura and Conchita Cordova.

Since Miriam Rita is a pastor, this was an occasion for her to spot a nice-looking composition of her most recent work. That was at the foyer of the Mactan ballroom, where the wedding reception and dinner would later take place.

Everyone praised the silk and water colors as display depicting landscapes, sea scenes, animal kingdom, and religious themes. One found "Eve" showed whirling fish on a pond. Its colors were vivid and life-like.

The creation of the bridal couple was announced, and that one can be all to find there was a genuine plated dinner was served, and there was a performance of grief of human dreams.

Ballroom dancing capped the evening with Jose Vargas and his band clubbing our every number on the book.

MINA Galang Mina, mother-of-the-bride Helen Frances Mina, Christina and Gil Concolluela, Ed Mina, and Nancy Mina

Ayala Malls Wins 2009 ICSC Maxi Silver for Bravo Filipino

Ravens Tumaliuan, Ayala Malls Group Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, receives the ICSC Maxi silver trophy from top officials of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) - ex-left, Jay D. Sloan, Senior Gulf VP and Chief Global Marketing Officer, and ex-right, JoAnn Lum, Senior Manager of Professional Recognition.

Ayala Malls, the leader in innovation for mall development in the country wins the most prestigious international shopping center award - the ICSC Maxi Silver for Marketing Excellence for Bravo Filipino.

The brainchild of Ayala Corporation chairman emeritus Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Bravo Filipino was a four-month festival celebrating the Filipino legacies and artistry in music, fashion, visual arts and dance. The event was launched at the Ayala Mall's latest masterpiece, Greenbelt 5.

The ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) MAXI Awards Program is an international marketing competition that recognizes excellence in shopping center marketing. MAXI Awards have been given every year since 1972 to those shopping centers and companies that have designed and implemented the most successful marketing programs during the previous year.

The winners were presented recently at the 2009 ICSC Maxi Awards held at the Fusion Conference in Hollywood, Florida.

Last year, Bravo Filipino won a gold award at the ICSC Asia Shopping Center Awards in Macau, an Arrut award of merit conferred by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, and a Philippine Quill Award for excellence in communications management.

Bulikbayan Mr. Laddie and Neilda Isla Dizon of New Jersey, USA, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on May 9, 2009. The couple are blessed with two children-Maria Cecilia and Melissa, and three grand children. Neilda is the elder sister of Mr. Honesto Isla Jr. Finance Director of Deutsch.

DDB DECLARES KAMI MISMO

The DDB Creative Team: (from left) Alex Mayuga, Tenny Gonzales and Sophia Reyes (all seated); (standing from left) Jonas Pascual, Jonas Lucas, Mayuga Dayrit Academy, Cebu Team

2008's newest advocacy campaign has been getting a lot of attention to the agency's amazement. This has in fact given them more conviction to stand behind their cause and continue their crusade for positive change.

It's no surprise though that AKO MISMO is ensuring a lot of people's interest. The commercial undeniably stirred very deep patriotic sentiments among the viewing public that immediately, thousands went online to check the site and signed up to make commitments.

"We knew we had something great when we came up with the advocacy," said Tenny Gonzales, Executive Creative Director of DDB, who heads up the creative team that conceptualized AKO MISMO. "That's because even among us, the message really resonated. It made us all look deep inside and say, 'Yes, we're not giving up hope.'" She said that the difficult part was finding like-minded people to support it.

"Not everyone appreciated the message immediately," said DDB Group President Gil Chua, "but we shared the idea with several organizations who did get excited about the message. And we are fortunate that one of them was the PLDT Smart Foundation." Chua added that through they began the campaign with PLDT Smart, it is open to other groups or individuals who may want to support the advocacy. "We have already been approached and met with other companies who want to join and help AKO MISMO."

Members of the team then went on another search. This time for the people who would breathe life into the campaign — people who embodied the message or simply had the conviction to make a commitment to fight apathy. True the rich mix of showbiz celebrities, real life heroes as well as regular folk who spoke simply but sincerely in the TV commercial, bringing the point poignantly home. "We're grateful to all the personalities who did this pro bono. They participated on the strength of their convictions and genuine belief in the cause," added Tenny Gonzales.

Susan Gimzecal, Vice-Chairman of DDB Group of Companies said, "We were overwhelmed with the positive response and people saying that the campaign made them realize that they should stop complaining and start doing their part. There were a lot who chose to put their cynicism aside and truly support the advocacy. As expected, there are those who didn't share the view of the majority and are trying to ascribe to it other agenda. But even opposing views are part of what makes this campaign even more exciting. It sparks debate and makes everyone really search deep about what the cause means to them."

DDB has, in the past, also supported and made campaigns for women's rights, the preservation of the environment, education of children and responsible voting in the last local elections. Then after findings from research that showed that young people have grown apathetic to the plight of the country, DDB knew the message of hope was one they had to make. Thus, AKO MISMO was born.

Many are asking what they can look forward to from AKO MISMO. John Lucas, Managing Director of Triad DDB said, "The response to the campaign has been phenomenal. After only six days, we had over 70,000 commitments and over 1.1 million page views and 700,000 search results, with numbers growing by the minute. There is a lot of clamor for the displays, so we are making production to meet the demand. We will be announcing soon how people can get them. There are future activities lined-up which you will also learn about from the site."

The DDB team though also realizes that there are doubting Thomases who refuse to believe in the sincerity of the cause. "It's understandable given how jaded we have become as a people," says Gonzales. "Precisely intense, we're determined to stay positive and continue our efforts for the advocacy. Their hopefully they will see that we're one with them."

With regards to signing up in the AKO MISMO site, Lucas says, "We are still in the beta, it's still the national's chance to sign up or not. But if our campaign has as much as touched the hearts of Filipinos to make a commitment for positive change even to themselves, then AKO MISMO is off to a great start."

"If you will read our FAQs in the site," added Gimzecal, "it answers a lot of the questions being pondered out there." Clearly, the DDB Team is upbeat and excited about their newest advocacy.

DDB PR Chairman Tony Sarmiento says, "That's because this is something really close to our hearts and something that DDB cares about."

AKO MISMO

Editor Ermie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Mom's love conquers all

By Boyet Sun Diego Jr.

Valerie Concepcion discovers the real meaning of devotion through her mother Marietta and little daughter Fiona

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

SINGLE mom's new joys: Valerie Concepcion with daughter Fiona and mom Marietta

YOUNG MOM VALERIE CONcepcion knows full well that the secret of her newfound success is her family—specifically, mother Marivesa Galang on one hand, and her 4-year-old daughter Fiona on the other.

"I'm very close to my mom," notes the actress and "Newsweek" co-host. "My mom used to be scared of riding airplanes. But now she accompanies me everywhere, even out of town."

Mom Marietta is not just her constant companion; she's also her financial advisor. "I oversaw her investments and monitor her check book as well," insists a Certified Public Accountant, says.

Full support

Marietta gave up her job in an advertising agency, and died finely retired from his post as bank manager, to help Valerie run her personal and professional affairs. "The entire family is supportive of Val," mom reiterates.

"As a single mom, I appreciate that my parents are around to take care of Fiona," Valerie says. "Even if I'm busy with work, I know that my girl is in good hands."

Valerie is only 21, she was 16 when she had Fiona. The unplanned pregnancy, Marietta admits, was a turning point in their relationship.

"From that she's a mom herself, Valerie

more»

Half apology, full defense

By Marinel R. Cruz

MARTIN NIEVERA REFUSES TO ACCEPT an unlawful the way he sang the Philippine National Anthem during the Pacquiao-Hatton fight last week.

MARTIN Nievera

Dr. Antioch Gonzaga, chair of the National Historical Institute, criticized the singer's rendition on Monday, the day after the Las Vegas bout, citing a law that specified the manner in which "Lupang Hinirang" should be sung.

"I'm sure valid me about the an added lines ... I didn't get the memo," Martin said in a statement sent to media on Friday. "Others believe me [had] sung their [own] versions [too]."

Gonzaga did point out that many artists continued to modify the tune "despite repeated reminders."

But Nievera said he was apologizing to "people afraid of progress and change ... lawmakers and ... whomever took offense to my interpretation of probably the most beautiful song I have ever come across."

Nievera said Pacquiao offered him the gig three months ago and that he "accepted wholeheartedly."

In the picture

In various reports, Nievera was quoted as saying he consulted knowledgeable people about his performance, including musician Ryan Cayabyab.

Cayabyab sent in this statement defending Nievera, with a three-paragraph prelude that explains what "Mr. C" referred to as a "mistake"—in light of accounts quoting him on the issue and coming across as being critical of the performer.

"Part of the interview I gave [that was played up in the reports] was words on my defense of Martin's freedom to express himself," Cayabyab stated. "Only the 'I warned you' part [but here] emphasized. I cited two important parameters in that interview—the legal and the artistic."

The interview was held in Vigan, where Cayabyab was judging a singing contest of the time Gonzaga's complaint was published.

Ms. Celebrator of Nievera

"Give Martin a break! Even after I cautioned him not to alter the notes, and even when he went on to express it the way he wanted, I trusted him after his

more»

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PLDT

All the old and lonely people

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FILMMAKER JOEL LAMANGAN'S latest digital movie "Paubaya" is especially close to his heart because it serves as his tribute to his grandparents.

Four in central characters—played by veterans Gloria Romero, Eddie Garcia, Robert Arevalo, among others—have the combined age of over 200 is what initially attracted him to the screenplay by Ricky Lee.

"I'm drawn to old people," he notes. "I grew up with my lolo and lola (grandparents). I'm familiar with their personality. I know how lonely they can be.

"When you are in your twilight years, you acquire a lot of insecurities, you ask a lot of questions. You yearn for a companion, someone you can spend the last years of your life with."

These are the issues he tackled in "Paubaya," the first digital movie in the Star Drink series to have a theatrical run.

"I want to tell the story of senior citizens," he relates. "Their stories are seldom given importance in in movies, television, even in literature. I want their voices to be heard."

Speaking of sacrificial elders, the story gracious Romero says can't against type in Manang, a feisty mother to comic icon Informer Ina boyfriend (Arevalo) and long-lost husband (Garcia).

Acid tongue

The script required Romero to turn like a sullen—how Ilana peppered with colorful references to the human anatomy.

Lamangan admits that "it took awhile to convince her because she hasn't entered any of those words in her entire life." Although she was initially hesitant, the movie queen's professionalism prevailed in the end.

"I accepted her that it's part of his character and that's a commitment as an actress," he points out. "She emerged from her shell and played her role to the hilt." Romero recently won Best Actress in a Musical-Comedy and Gawad, Best Actor in a Musical-Comedy, and "Paubaya" Best Musical-Comedy Film at the recent press' Gawad Tanglaw Awards.

It was said to cast monumental stars like Romero, Garcia, Arevalo, along with Ice Gallardo and Ayanda Segarra-Reyna, Lamangan says, "we assure a mass audience."

With Star Drink, our goal is to offer movies that are different, but still entertain viewers," he explains.

Star Dark Shot, he says, are "not of the box, but audience-friendly."

He commends producer Tony Tuason of APT for taking the initiative.

"There are countless films and yet we are given complete creative freedom by our producer," he says.

Proceeds of the Star Dark films will go to the Order of the Knights of Rizal of the Philippines and the Magkaisang Mangagawang Pilipinong Filipino.

Valjhen with Fiona. With her parents, the TV star says, her kids get to a good hands.

Mom's love ...

From page B1

understands where I'm coming from," Mariette says.

Valjhen agrees: "As the family's breadwinners, I'm always concerned about my younger brothers' studies. I worry if they come home late, too."

Realization

The maternal instinct kicked in rather belatedly for Valjhen. "When I learned I was pregnant, I didn't get excited because I was so in love with Fiona and I had no desire [to]," she recalls. "I was totally blinded."

Hands realizes Fiona] has to give up quickly. Quite reasonably it was about two opposing [from] Mom's and that she discovered motherhood.

"In spite of everything, my mom and dad still accepted me and they have accepted daughter," Valjhen says.

Lucky charm

"Fiona is our angel, our lucky charm," Mariette says.

"When you're a teenager, you learn only to your friends. You think they've you only allies," Valjhen adds. "But at the end of the day, it's your family who'll stick with you. Even if you hurt her, your mother will never give up on you."

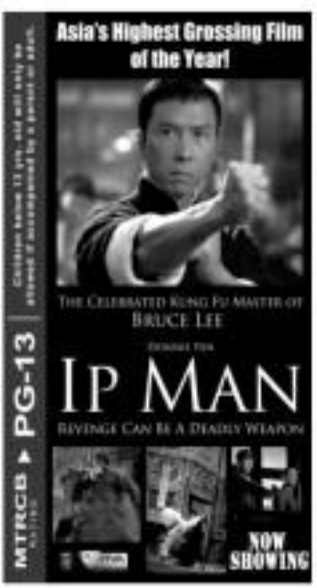
E-mail: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com

Half apology, full defense

performance vs. my. Insecure? I never imagined this area. [would] reach [your pitch. Deep in my heart I felt, as an artist and a proud Filipino, what Martin was trying to be sang 'Lupang Hinirang,' until the end part, of course. That wasn't comfortable at all.

"Nevertheless, Martin sang it with much fervor. If this paves the way for a national debate on the issue and a review of that particular law, then I can only think Martin for providing the spark by the rid he took. He has done his part as an artist by pushing standards to the edge and making us other ways to express himself. Your act is nev- er comfortable. If anyone in- tends to bring him to court, then they should call every- one else who had sang or re- arranged the National An- thems in 'their own way' and the list could be quite long. It includes a national artist."

From page B1



Playboy won't buy P4-M bag for controversial star

GORGEOUS CELEBRITY HAS been eyeing a limited-edition Hermes bag for the longest time.

She asked Inbcomic Playboy to buy the ever expensive item for her. The answer: Di ahasol dol, but when he checked the price tag, roughly P4 million, he started questioning the depth of his love. Actually, it means DC just wants to hang up with Papa he'Nag, who's have a P5-M Hermes tote.

Baron on the move

At the Kapamilya network losing its resident Bad Boy? According to the grapevine, BB-CBB housemate Gabriel Ramon Golidor is moving to GMA 7. He is slated to do a new thriller directed by Mark Reyes. Rather really, truly hopes he won't be typecast as the new Dick Israel. He has so much more to offer.

Mystery solved

On last Sunday's "The Buzz," Al Kride has

Alan revealed that she's dating a hot Latino. She revealed only his name: Julio, from Venezuela. A quick Google search yielded a surname and a photo: Rich Julio Calbetas, his country's representative in the 86[illegible] continental pageant in 2002. And he's gorgeous. Straight for comment, ri Al confirmed via SMS: "That's him!"

Remake frenzy

There is talk that GMA 7 is churning out more remakes after "Betty Bale" and "Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang."

In the works at the Kapuso remake factory is Cobra Ad. Cardillo's "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa." Said to have bagged the plum role originated by Gloria Diaz is Ellen Madrigal.

Also, the Kapuso channel is supposedly remaking the Koreanovela "Stairway to Heaven" with the new tandem of Bingbong Bautista and Jennylyn Mercado.

From the top

Fernandez Network Exec, who allegedly works in Presidential Candidate's campaign team? Media sectors can't openly support politicians, isn't it? violating the rules? Not really. A spy believes Mel's sideline has "Jay Kaye's inspiration."

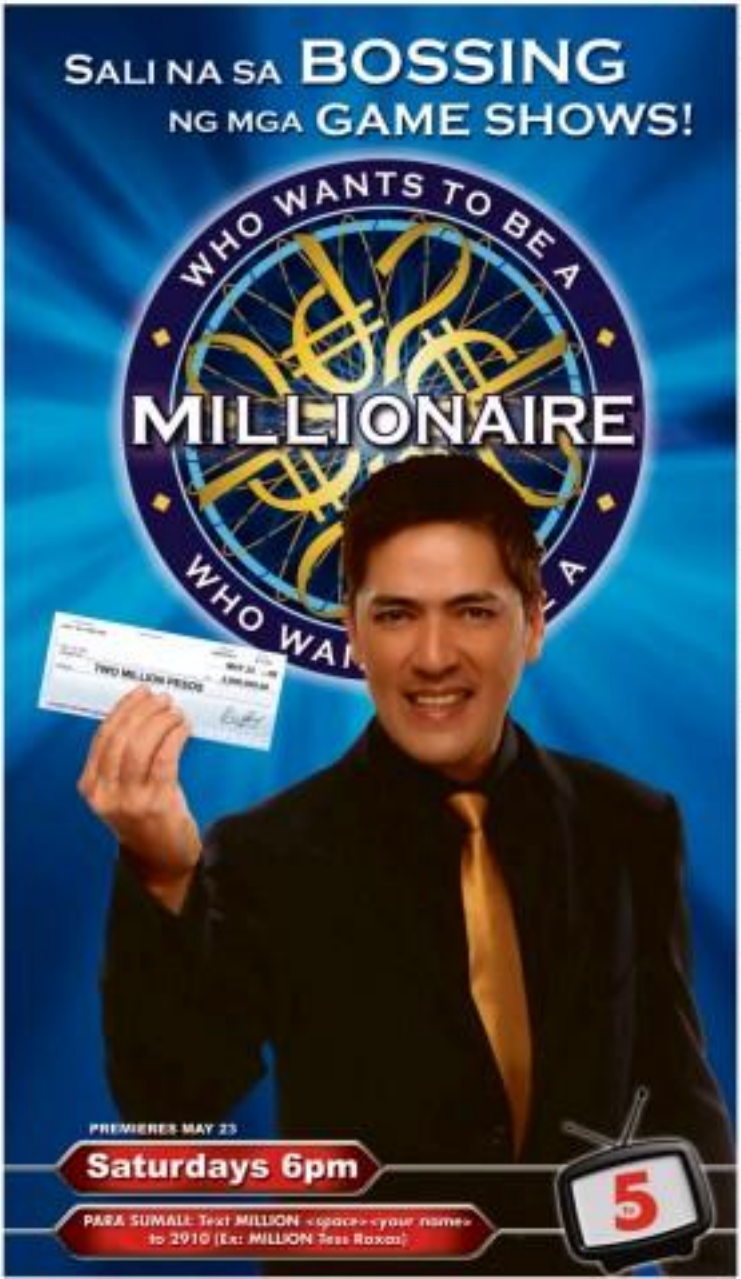
Biggest concern

High-Flying Personality is at it again. Before a public event that would've given lesser mortals sleepless nights, HFP seemed unruffled. She was quoted as saying that her top priority was finding the perfect outfit because of the media coverage.

RUSHES SUNDAY

Mother Sharon

Sharon Cuneta pays tribute to all mothers with newest production numbers on "S.S.A.P. 05" today. But the day's real highlight is the announcement of winners in Nido FortiPlus's "My #1 Video" contest.



This is an online site for which members were encouraged to send music videos of themselves with their children and, as second-track ... (the "You're My #1" song) interposed by Sharon in that commercial, with Frankie and Nikki. Should be fun.

Bono for Presley

LONDON—The poetry doesn't rise to a Shakespearean level, but the sentiment in Bono's tribute to Elvis Presley seems heartfelt.

In an unusual performance, the U2 frontman sends an original poem honoring America's original rocker as part of the BBC's poetry season.

"Elvis woke up my hero," Bono says near the end of the work, which celebrates Presley's small-town Mississippi roots and global influence. It will be broadcast May 13 on BBC Radio 4 after more than a decade of sitting on a shelf waiting for a producer to give it a proper treatment.

It is clear from the poem that Presley's influence extended to Ireland, where Bono first heard him as a young boy, and to Liverpool, where lads named John, Paul, George and Ringo heard Presley's early hits. "Elvis invented the 'drawling,'" Bono says. AP

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top three tele stories in PSL tabloid standees this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

• Mga luha ni Judy Ann Santos-gali kay Ryan Agoncillo. Memory ni Julie nagdalaryan. (Uh... sus-lam?)

• Andi at Enzo: Aaway sana kapag mag-asawa. (Ah... sus-lam!)

• Richard Gutierrez di nanuood ng laro ng... (Do a little-ling 'you.)

• Kris Aquino at Boy Abunda walang 8 magaalit (Ina Raymundo at Mar Roxas. (Hindi ay walang 8—parang walang problema.)

• Bb. Joy ni aking ganap na bahay. (Ganito na?)

• Sam Milby hindi pa rin, amat kita ng ngipin. (At least.)

• Sabong busy daw kasi si Bb. Mega nanganak si Angel. (Hindi siguro.)

• Sofia Gutierrez bisara, inisnsa ni Krikaret (Screamer!)

• Lagi na lang siya ko nakatago! - Rufa Gutierrez. That's television.)

• Now na raw kina Ate Vilma at Pepe Fernandez, Jomari Yllana type daw Ate Alice Melendez. (Nakup.)

• Marvin Nievera, di na binayaran, ukinsuweldo pa. (Hindi ba si Pacman?)

• Ate's boss gaanong magpakisat. (Once is not enough.)

U2 front man Bono is scheduled to read a poem honoring Elvis, for broadcast May 13 on BBC Radio.

ENTERTAINMENT

Gael Garcia Bernal on his Pinoy co-stars

TOGETHER again: Gael Garcia Bernal (left), is reunited with his "Y Tu Mama Tambien" co-star Diego Luna in "Rudo Y Cursi."

LOS ANGELES—"THEY ARE FUNNY actors," Gael Garcia Bernal recently described his Filipino costars in Swedish director Lukas Moodysson's "Mammoth." "They" include Marife Necesito, Marilu Delos Santos, Jun David Nardao, Percy Diamante and Maria Fontevedria "Chiqui" del Carmen.

"They did a really wonderful job," Gael added about his Pinoy co-stars in the film, which debuted at the Berlin Film Festival last February. The festival screening enabled the cast to reunite. "It was great to know them. They were really committed and understood the craft of cinema. Lukas had a great connection with them."

The international star, who also is Dane in such movies as "Y Tu Mama Tambien" (with Diego Luna), "Amores Perros" and "El Crimen del Padre Amaro," said he was glad to see the finished film that also featured Michelle Williams and child lead on international cast and was shot in different countries. "Many of us didn't know each other because we did not appear together in scenes," he said of "Babel," whose cast included Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. "It was great to meet them later."

In "Rudo y Cursi (Tough and Corny)," Gael is reunited with Diego Deniph it's not the sequel to "Y Tu..." that we have all been wishing for. "Y Tu..." was a landmark Mexican film that memorably capped the classroom chemistry of the two actors who are childhood friends. But it's good enough to see the two talented guys together again, this time playing brothers in the comedy-sports drama directed by Carlos Cuaron, who wrote the screenplay of "Y Tu..." and is the brother of Alfonso, who directed that earlier seminal film.

MARK VII

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Rahcel V. Arguelles

and on acting with Diego Luna again

actress Sophie Reynolds. He didn't have scenes with the two Filipino child actors. "So it was nice to see the pure in the film that I didn't get to watch them do," said the actor whose funny credits include "Babel" and "The Motorcycle Diaries." "It was also nice for them to see the parts that they didn't get to watch at least," he added.

Gael likened the experience in the making of "Babel," which also

Miss RP-Earth tonight

By Armie Adina

MARIMA ASHLEY THE MOST WORLD-educated nurse disqualified from the Ms. Philippines race days before the pageant in Manila, is now making waves in the rival competition, Miss Philippines Earth.

After five major preliminary competitions, the 375 Filipino contestants modeling representing Negros Occidental has won four special awards—Best in Costume, Best Evening Gown, Best in Swimsuit.

Five other awards have been given—to Jane Ivy from Guinsa, Miss Ever Bilena Photogenic; Irene Ireger from the Filipino community in Canada, Best in Long Gown; Angelee Claudel delos Reyes from Olongapo City, Miss Talent; Beverly Lou Lopez from Pasay City, Miss Golden Smile; and Cathrine Loyola from the Filipino community in Sydney, Miss Magnolia.

Sandra was poised to take the top place in Binibini earlier this year but was dropped by organizers after she was found to have posed in the October 2007 issue of a men's magazine.

Now Sandra is seated as the one who will bring home the crown. If the succeeds Karla Henry, she will become the fourth Binibini runner-up to ever win the country in the Miss Earth pageant.

Karla, also for stripping Miss Earth, did not receive any award in the Ms. Philippines last year. Her predecessor, Jessica Hern, failed to advance to the semis in the same competition.

In 2004, Miss Earth-Water 2006 Catherine Ulvane admitted that she endured for Binibini but failed to make it as a semifinalist.

Other Binibini alumnae in the competition are Trenton City's Julie Anthonette "Jolie" Cito's Bianca-Sue Mae Castillo and Apalit's Simone Johnson.

If the trend continues, there will be changes in the nine-year-old pageant. Semifinalists take short advance in the Top 5 will be considered runners-up and may take over titles in case any of the finalists decide to fulfill her obligations.

Lorraine Ebuck, executive vice president of organizer Carousel Productions, explained, "We realized we didn't have ladies on stand by if one of our queens needs to be replaced. [Most advanced] would also help us spread the cause of environmental preservation more effectively."

The Miss Philippines Earth pageant will be held at The Arena in San Juan tonight and telecast live on 9211288 at 10 p.m. after "TV Patrol Linggo."

SANDRA Sollivi

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

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PIONEER

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STA. ROSA

1 STAR TREK	
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3 FAST AND FURIOUS 4	
4 FRIDAY THE 13TH	

LIPA

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IMUS

1 PUSH	
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ANGELES

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE	3 WOLVHOUND
2 THE SECRET OF MOONACRE	4 STAR TREK

STARMILLS

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2 STAR TREK	5 SUPER TYPHOON
3 T2	6 CRANK 2

BACOLOD

1 CRANK 2	
2 THEY WAIT	
3 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE	
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1 STAR TREK	
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Gael Garcia...

Pronounced:

Almost a decade since their breakthrough film, both Gael and Diego have become fathers and first-time directors. They have worked together in other capacities but not onscreen. In "Rudo...," they play brothers who work on a banana plantation and play with their village soccer team. Yes (Gael) dreams of becoming a famous singer (a music video of Gael singing and dancing in character is a hoot) while Rudo (Diego) wants to become a professional soccer player.

Partners off-cam

"It's a very, Diego and I have not stopped working with each other," Gael said. "We have been working off-screen together. We're to worth a lot because we have a production company [every year, we organize a documentary film festival called Ambulante. We have a lot of things in common. But being able to act together now is a great opportunity to test our maturity. We are more aware of the filming process. We are not really even more dedicated than we were before. There's less pressure now, too. We just had fun doing it. What's great about knowing each other very well is that we're able to experiment with things that we would not experience with other people."

"Will it be called "I Yo Mismo Rodrigo," as in "The Mummy Returns?" Gael joked when asked about the possibility of a sequel, his green eyes lighting up. He himself said, "It would be fantastic to see Julio and Tenoch again. We are still wondering what happened to the characters. Are they still in universal? What did they end up doing? I miss those characters. But we haven't seriously talked about it."

Buzzed about singing on stage before "Rudo..." was screened to Sundance early this year, Gael laughed and said, "It was definitely the first time that I sang in front of an audience. That was also the first time that I was singing without the characters. If anyone would ask me to sing in a film or something, I would tremendously choose because I don't see myself as a singer. I think I sing really badly. Fortunately, my character had to sing really badly (laughter)."

In character

In a separate interview, Diego went to town about his buddy's crooning and accordion playing (Gael plays accordion in the film) calling "It's the beginning. I couldn't name him. I felt sorry for him. I wanted to hug him (laughter). But he's always going to say that he was singing in character. He's going to say his real singing is much better. The more part was not the singing. It was his accordion playing. Oh my God, that was so painful (laughter). I made the stupid decision of sleeping next door to him in the hotel. We were playing brothers so we had to get together, talk a lot about those characters."

Diego, who roomed the hotel meeting room as we were taking photos of Gael (he pretended to take pictures, too, of his pal with his cell phone), continued: "When Gael learned half of the song, he felt so happy so he would play that half of a song all day long, nonstop. My wife came to visit us. She stayed for a week and she ran away (laughter). I was worried she would divorce me (laughter). It didn't happen."

When we asked how fatherhood has changed Gael, Diego smiled and replied, "If you look closely, he's starting to have a few gray hairs (laughter). They're coming out. You can tell he's not having enough sleep now. I remember before when Gael was on the phone, he was either doing interviews or making business calls [in mixed-in Gael sounding boatman-like on the phone]. Now every time, Gael is like (in a high pitched, child's voice to his invisible Gael talking to his baby), 'Oh, how are you?' Being a father just brings the most beautiful part of you. You have to be really an asshole not to become a better person (laughter). Gael has become a much more beautiful person. It's really sweet to see someone you love having so much."

Diego, also asked about an "I Yo..." sequel, recounted, "The other day we were doing the cameras. ity for the DVD of this film ('Rudo...'). I was telling Gael that we should have our two characters in 'I Yo Mismo Rodrigo' commenting on this film. It would really be fun to have those two guys, 10 years later, saying 'These bastards don't know what acting is' and stuff like that."

E-mail the columnist at rmajidu_15@yahoo.com and read his blog "The Popular Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/rmajidu/report.

Molly, the 'Starter Wife'

THE FIRST FULL SEASON OF "STARTER Wife," starring Debra Messing in the title role, started airing Thursday this week on the Hallmark Channel.

A miniseries introduced Molly, a pampered Hollywood housewife and mother, who's trying to recover from divorce. Messing talks about the surprise hit show.

Was it always in the plan that, if the miniseries did well, it would become a series?

No, it was never even discussed because ... it was an adaptation of a novel, and the miniseries encompassed the whole novel. Then ... people started to really respond to the show and we got '10' Emmy nominations. (She's not one.)

Is the first episode when the kid wants a BlackBerry — was that made up?

No, that is a very real thing. 7-year-old asking for BlackBerries. One of the things I love most about the show is the social satire [aspect]. There's really meth-

ing normal about Hollywood.

How do you stay grounded?

For me, it's just a matter of staying based into family and my lifelong friends from New York. And, you know, I'm pretty solitary. I'm a homebody. So I don't get out much to get into trouble.

Winning the Emmy, what did it mean to you?

Oh, it was huge. I had been nominated four or five times before. When my name was called, it was an out-of-body experience, a glorious moment. It meant the world to know that my peers appreciated what I was doing.

What can you say to people who are dressing up for an awards night?

Hire a stylist.

Do you living your own in the us?

Almost daily because it's too painful for me to be away from him. And he loves it.

Would you say you're more like Grace (in "Will & Grace") or Molly?

I guess I'm more like Molly because I'm a mother... and the [character] ... I am at this point in my life.

Through the years, you've told us how we've inspired you issue after issue after issue.

happy mother's day!

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SUMMIT

Renz and Rannie team up at Teatrino

POSTY POP SINGERS RENZ VERNOY and Rannie Raymundo team up for the fourth time in a concert dubbed "TV Chic Friends" on June 13, 8 p.m. at Teatrino, Greenhills Shopping Center. Showtunes is also behind the show's concept and direction. Call 7220903 loc. 126; 0917-6249443; and 0917-9020858.

Pussycat Dolls take 3

Pussycat Dolls returns for a three-in-June 11 at the Mall of Asia concert grounds in Pasay. Big discounts for tickets are being offered by the group's consumer sponsors.

The Pussycat Dolls was formed in 1995 as a burlesque troupe based in Los Angeles. The group's founder, choreographer Robin Antin, negotiated a record deal with Interscope Records in 2003, and the troupe was recast as a musical act composed of Nicole Scherzinger, Melody Thornton, Jessica Sutta, Ashley Roberts, Kimberly Wyatt and Carmit Bachar.

It gained success in 2005 with the album "PCD," which debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard 200 chart and produced the hits "Don't Cha," "Stickwitu," and "Buttons." Following the departure of Bachar in 2008, the group continued as a quintet and released its second album, "Doll Domination," which included the singles "When I Grow Up," "I Hate This Part" and "Jai Ho! (You Are My Destiny)."

Call 911-5555 or 891-0999.

Akon gig reset to July 17

The May 23 concert of R&B singer-songwriter Akon has been reset to July 17 at the Araneta Coliseum. The concert promoter said this was due to the rescheduling of the artist's Asian tour.

Benefit gig at My Bro

Another benefit show will be held on May 16 at My Brother's Moustache, Scout Mansion, Quezon City, featuring Johnny and Eden, Right Session and Smorgasbound. Proceeds will go to the medical expenses of Angelito Dato, the club's sound technician who's currently in a coma at the Capitol Medical Center after suffering a stroke. Call or text 0918-2673333; 0919-6583388; and 0920-8000000.

Tax at La Salle Green Hills

The pop vocal group Tax reunites for a benefit concert dubbed "LSGH Singkwento-It's Tax!" on May 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Brx Dennis Center (formerly St. Joseph's Auditorium), La Salle Green Hills, Mandaluyong. The gig is part of a series of shows organized for the school's 80th anniversary in June. Four of Tax's members—Wigo Ramos, Jess Martinez, Mimi Silvestre and Carlo Bolabola—are LSGH alumni. The rest of the group is composed of Manny Aquino, Eric Benedict and Dante Mirap. Proceeds of the concert will go to the One La Salle Scholarship Fund. Call 727-2000 loc. 7194.

MTV Exit' at MOA

"MTV Exit," a campaign that will shape the route to spread the urgency of fighting human trafficking and exploitation, kicks off on May 22, 5 p.m. at the Mall of Asia concert grounds featuring Bamboo, Cubbli, Dante Ildefonso, Kamikazee, Kjwes, Parokya ni Edgar, Rodney Laforteza, Pupil, Rico Blanco, and Sponge Cola. MTV VJ Kat Alano and Tye Quinzon will host the show which is open to the public.

Regine V at SM Fairview

Regine Velasquez promotes her latest album "Low Key" with a small show today, 6 p.m. at SM Fairview. Autograph signing of CDs will follow after the show.

Tonight

"Chicago's Finest" at Central Park Conversation Hall, Quezon City

Tomorrow

Gawharan String Night at Ming Sen Restaurant, Quezon City

May 12

Guerillas, Muzzle, The Hows, Nicole & Carla, Decemberr Avenue at Ming sen Restaurant

May 13

Richard Merk & Friends with Jacqui Magno and Olivia at Merk's Bar & Bistro. Call 7574728.

May 14

Josephyn Mercado at Music Museum